

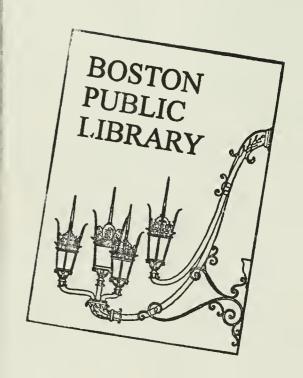


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Boston's Open Space

1987 PARK EVALUATION & SITE SUMMAPIES

BACK PAY-BEACON HILL



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CAPITAL PLANNING

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SITE SUMMAPLES

EVALUATION OF CITY OF BOSTON PARK AND RECREATION LAND

DRHOOD OF BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

ALLSTON-BRIGHTON BACK PAY-BRACON HILL

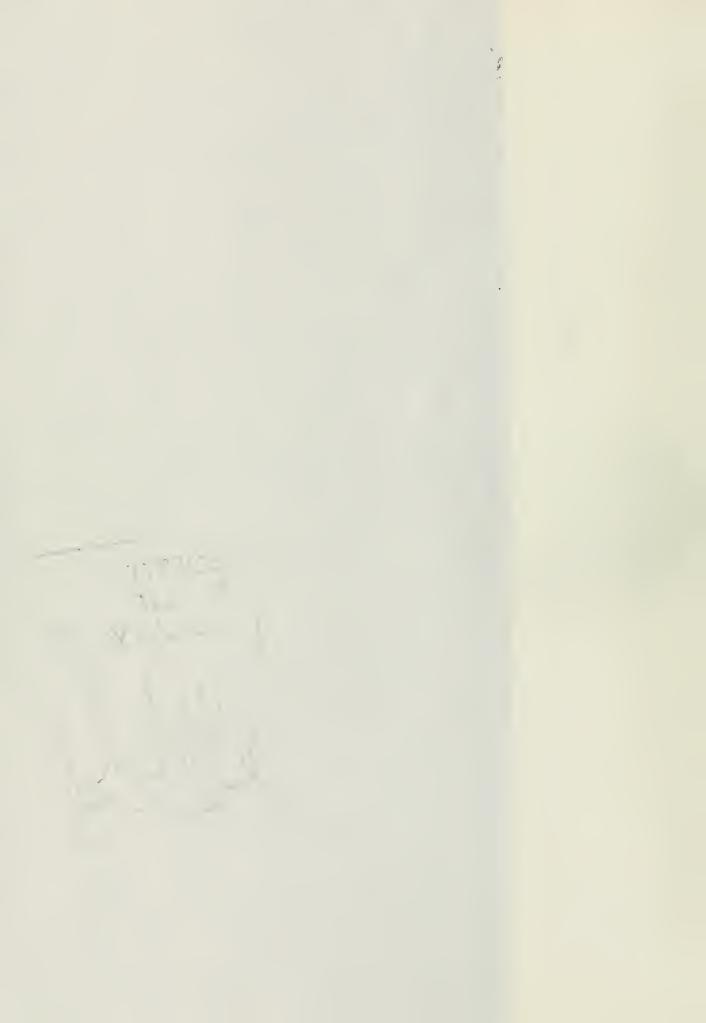
Prepared for

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CAPITAL PLANNING

HE HALVORSON COMPANY, INC. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND SITE PLANNING CONSULTANTS 161 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE OSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CAPITAL FLANNING





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EVALUATION OF CITY OF BOSTON PARK AND RECREATION LAND

NEIGHBORHOOD OF BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

Prepared for

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115





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NEIGHBORHOOD OF BACK BAY/BEACON HILL

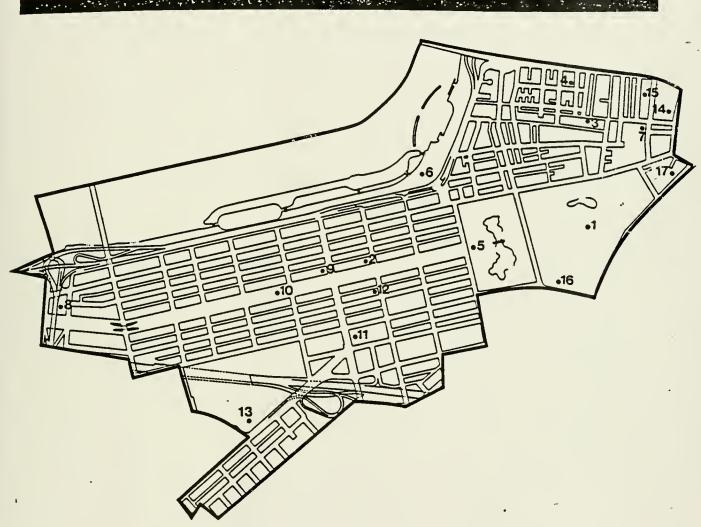
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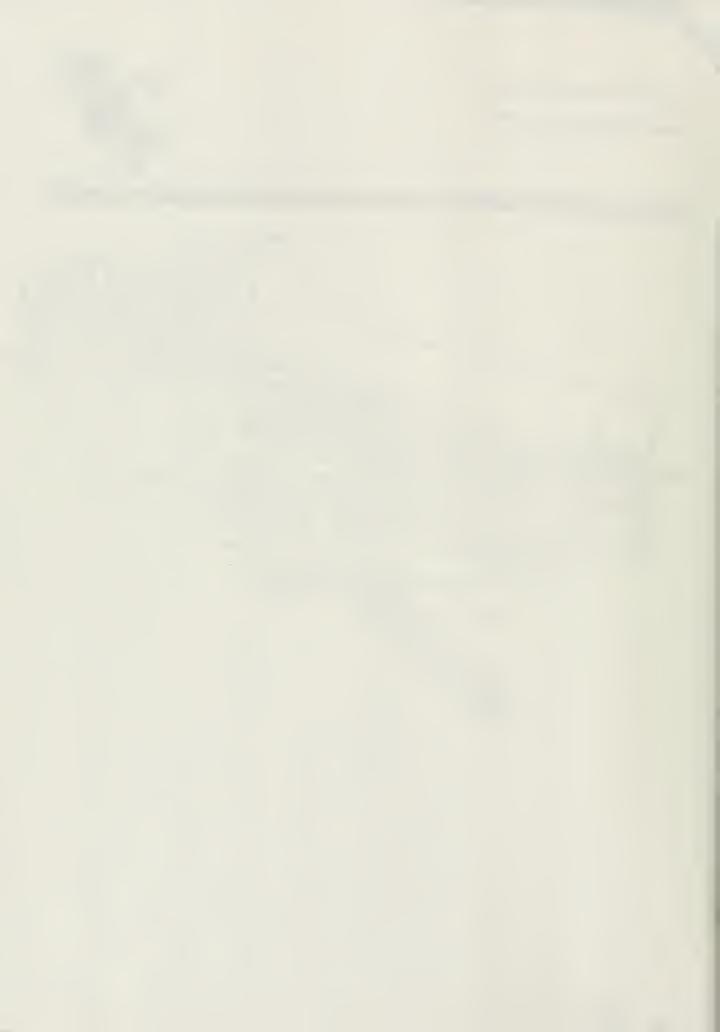


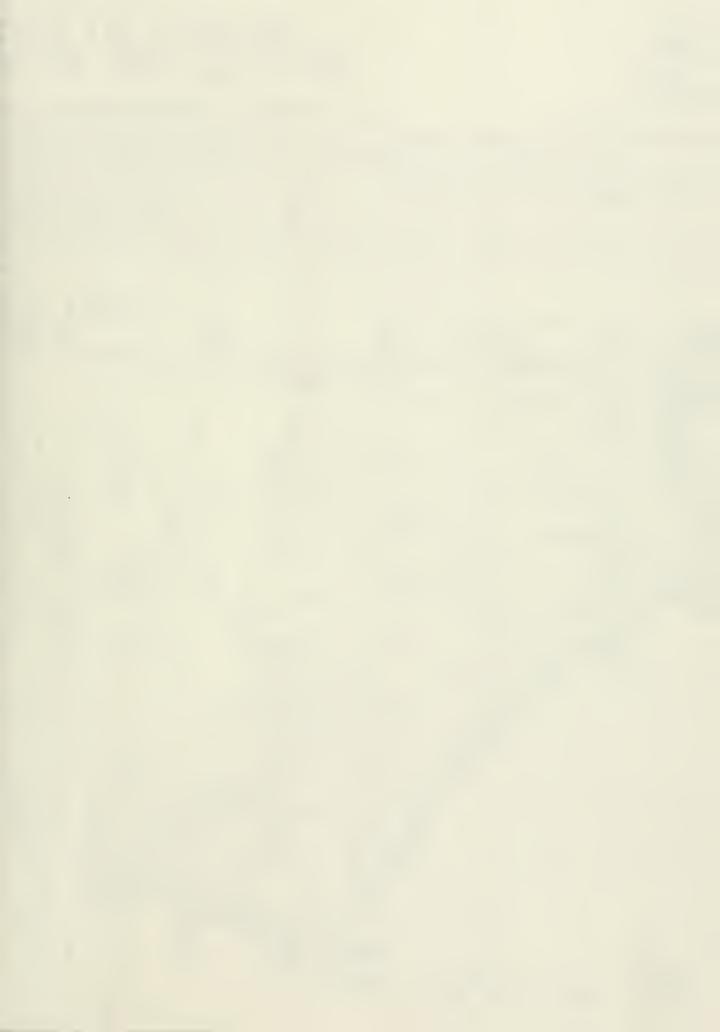
Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Map of Neighborhood's Open Space











CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



Veighborhood: Buck BAY BEACON HILL

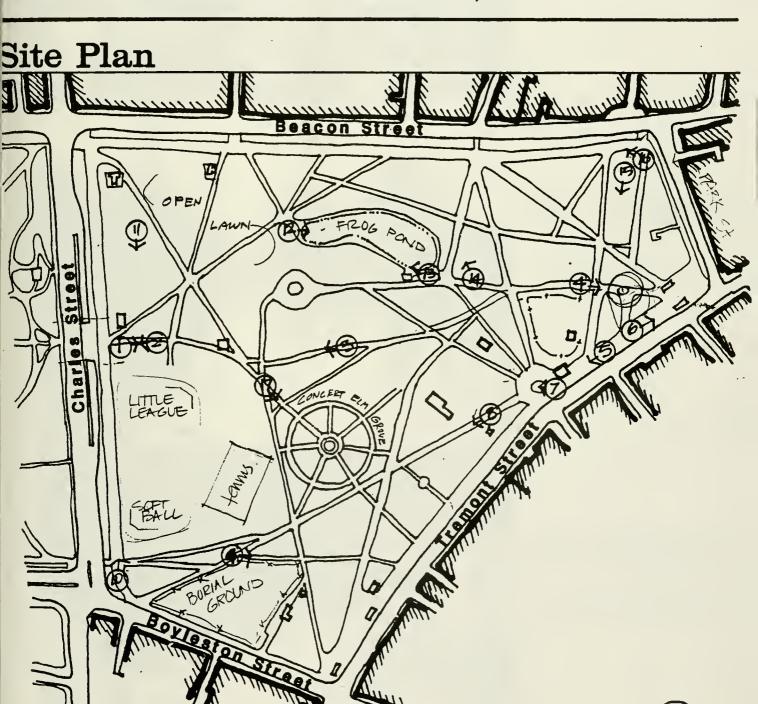
Site Name: Borrow Comon Site Type: MULTI-PURPOSE PAR

Location: TREMONT, REMON, CHEUSS, BONEMACTE age: 13:54 51 AC.

Evaluation Team: BCH SSF Weather Conditions: FAIR

Evaluation Date: 5.29.27

Surrounding Land Uses: COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL









From main entrance opposite Public Gardens. New tree planting doing poorly.



Site Photograph 2

Looking back at entrance. Entry dominated by street vendors.



Site Photograph 3

Granite cobble edging installed to prevent areas of eroded grass.







Fountain and public use area.



Site Photograph 5

Information center-style of building out
of character with
surroundings.



Site Photograph 6

Looking north toward Park Street MBTA station.







Granite bollards and chain— an effective edging around flag pole area. Light fixtures out of character with park.



Site Photograph 8

View through park—
a good example of
general character of
site—— full shade trees,
green grass and
sidewalks.



Site Photograph 9

Vehicles should not park on grass.







View along Charles Street.



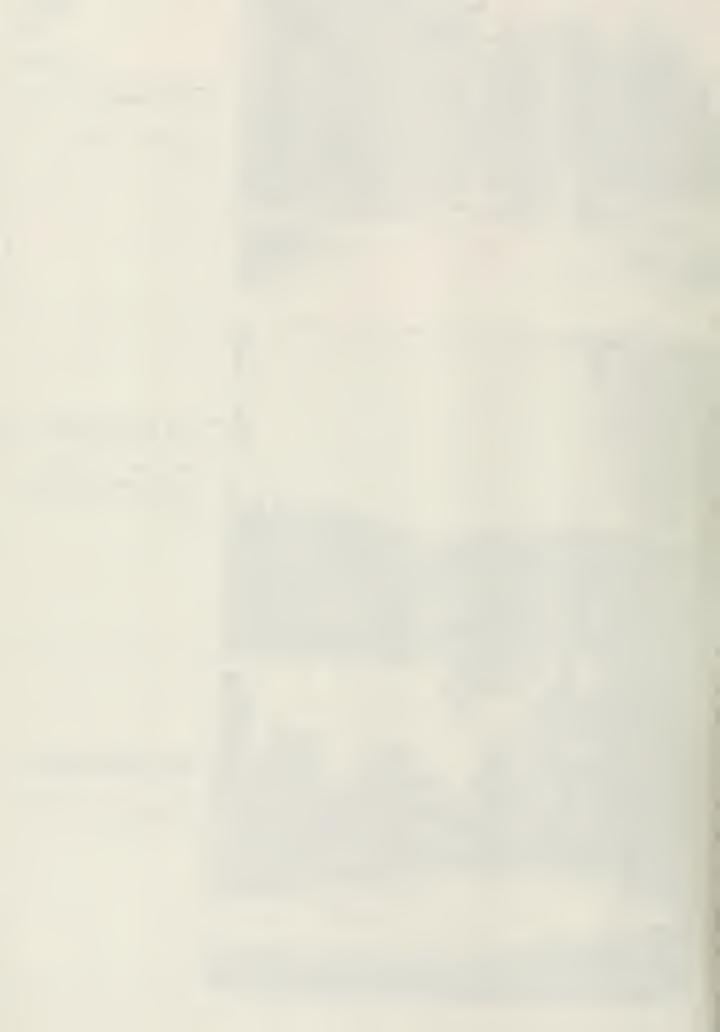
Site Photograph 11

Open lawn area above parking garage provides opportunities for free play.



Site Photograph 12

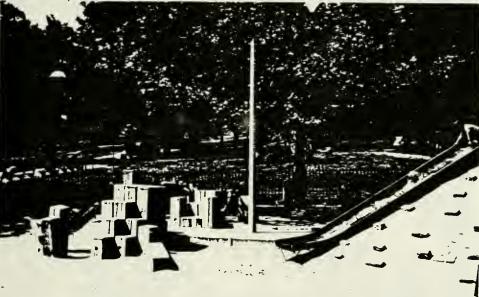
Frog pond-- can be used for skating.







Pavement needs repair.



Site Photograph 14

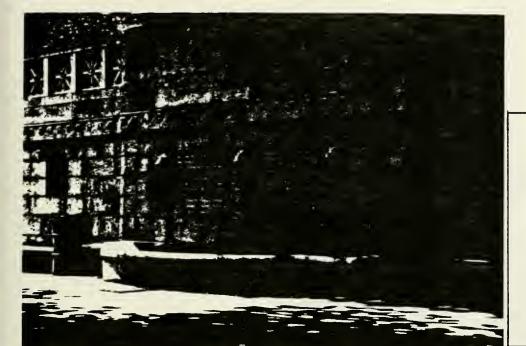
Tot lot-- well maintained and well used.



Site Photograph 15

View through site-shows temporary enclosure for construction.







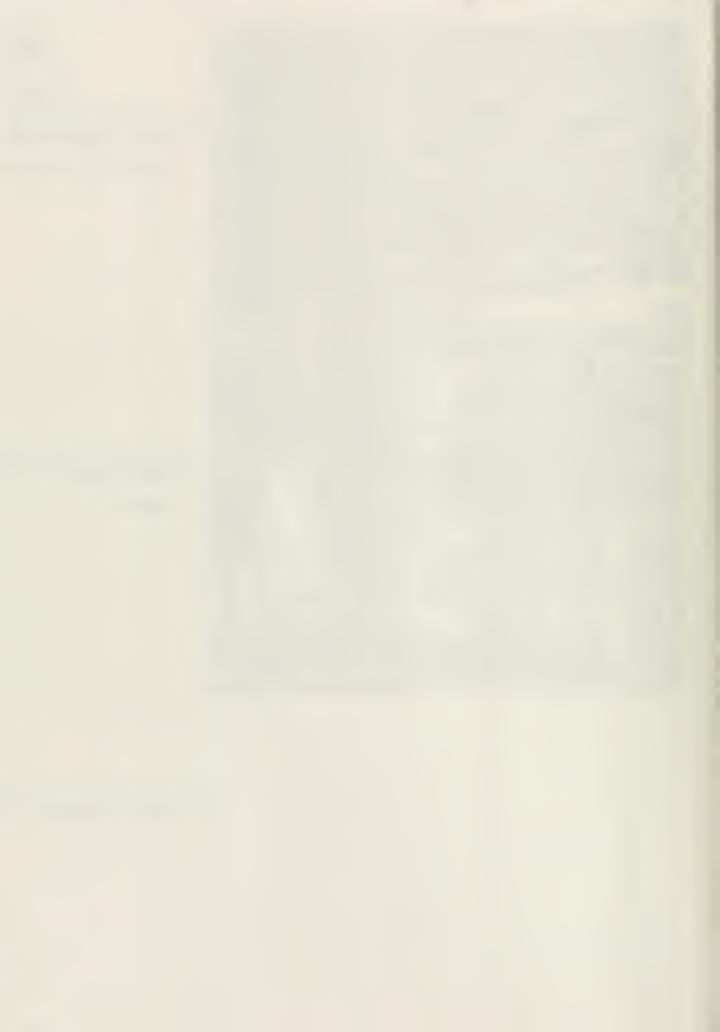
Fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 17

Bandstand.

Site Photograph 18



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill Site Name: The Boston Common

Location: Tremont, Boylston, Charles and Park Streets

Acreage: 51 A

Site Type: Multi-Purpose Park

Site Description:

The Boston Common is a large, irregularly shaped site bordered by Charles Street and the Public Garden on the west, Boylston Street on the south, Beacon and Park Streets on the north and Tremont Street on the east. The Common is located in the center of Boston and is bordered by both commercial and residential areas. There is fencing along Beacon and Park Streets and adjacent to the burial grounds along the southern edge of the site. Most of the park consists of tree-covered expanses of lawns with one large open lawn in the northwest. Several statues, fountains and plazas serve as focal points. The park is well supplied with benches and lights. There are several active recreational facilities: a large spray area (the frog pond) located in the center of the park near Beacon Street, a small playground located to the east of the spray area, softball and little league fields, and tennis courts located in the southeast corner of the site. There is a bandstand and a comfort station in the center of the site near Park Street.

Condition Assessments:

Most standard park-built elements are in good condition. The statues are in good condition, the bandstand in fair condition, and the comfort station is closed and appears to need major renovation. One fountain appears in fair to good condition but isn't working, and another is working and appears to be in good condition.

Sports fields, tennis courts and play structures are in good condition. Most of the trees appear in good condition and have been pruned. The lawn areas vary considerably. Most are in fair condition. However, some large areas are in good condition and other large areas are in poor condition, mostly due to compaction by foot traffic. Renovations to various park elements are scheduled by the City.

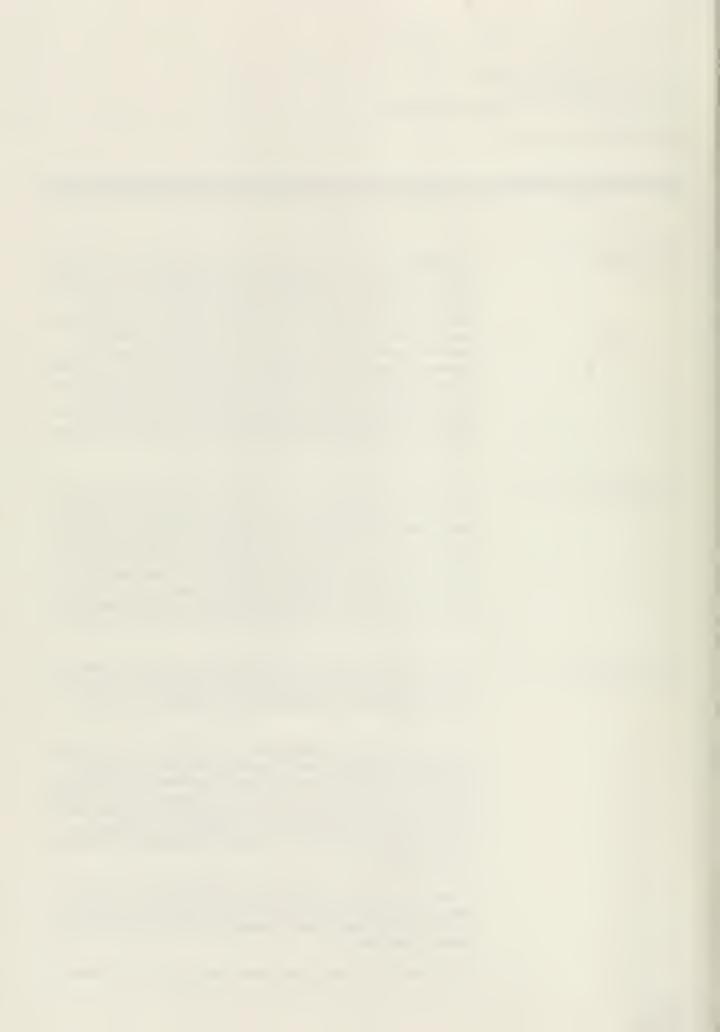
Major Site Issues:

The Boston Common was the earliest public open space established in Boston. Today, its extensive walks, lawns and monuments epitomize the public communal experience of Boston and for that reason it holds a prominent position in the City's landscape.

Although, as a whole, the Common appears to be in fair to good condition, there are numerous renovations to structures necessary, many of which will be addressed in the currently proposed repair work. The greatest overall improvement to the appearance of the park can be gained from improving the lawn areas. Many areas are worn out and compacted, especially near prominent entry points and features. Some areas have an irregular surface and poor grass coverage. An active turf management program is essential, as well as the restriction of cars from driving on the grass.

In general, the design of the improvements along Tremont Street do not well reflect the landscape character of the Common, most particularly the information booth. The park's concrete pedestrian lights are also out of character with the original site improvements.

The entrance from the Public Garden's across Charles Street is not as successful as



it could be because the arrival area to the Common is dominated by the entrance to and exit from the underground parking garage as well as by the headhouses to the garage. This entrance to the Common is also hidden behind juniper plantings. This area should be more elaborately conceived and richer, to act as both connection to and transition from the elaborate Gardens landscape. This area of the Common has been compromised by the development of sports fields and courts. Use of the Common for athletic facilities is inappropriate and disruptive of a passive landscape designed to be available to many people for a variety of uses. Softening by use of plantings and screening of the fields would mitigate their negative impact on the site. Intensive uses such as "Concerts on the Common" are also inappropriate because of the damage they cause to the landscape and because of their disruption of other, particularly passive, activities.

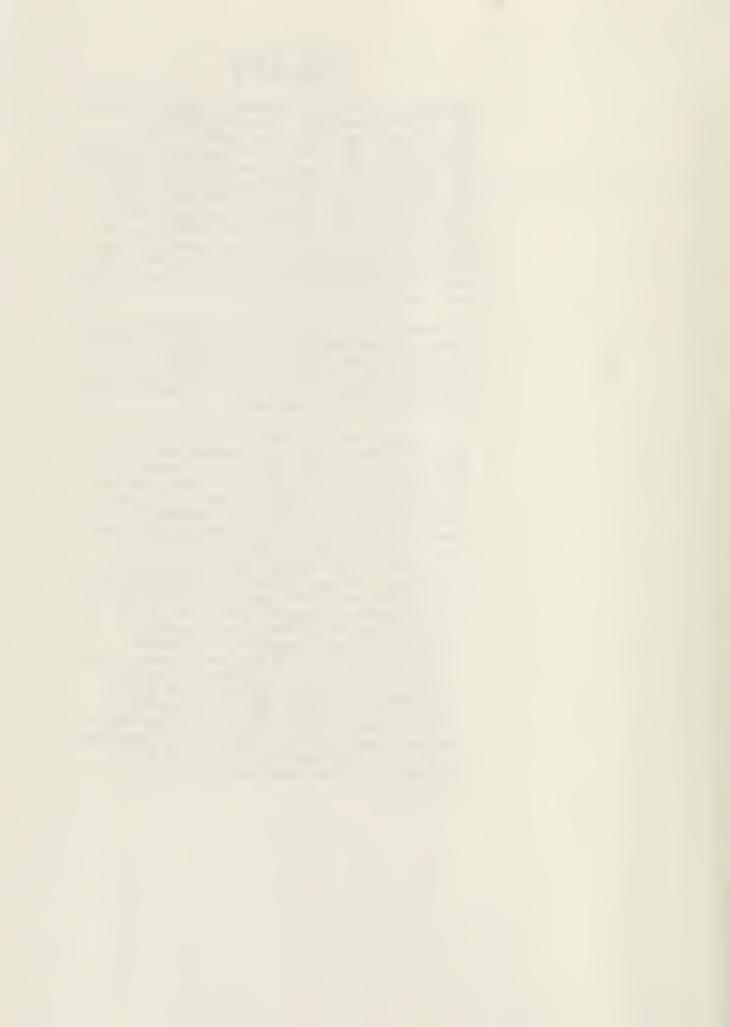


DRAFT

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DRAFT

No.: BB-1

Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: The Boston Common

Location: Tremont, Boylston, Charles and Park Streets 51 A Site Type: Multi-Purpose Park

Site Description:

Acreage:

The Boston Common is a large, irregularly shaped site bordered by Charles Street and the Public Garden on the west, Boylston Street on the south, Beacon and Park Streets on the north and Tremont Street on the east. The Common is located in the center of Boston and is bordered by both commercial and residential areas. There is fencing along Beacon and Park Streets and adjacent to the burial grounds along the southern edge of the site. Most of the park consists of tree-covered expanses of lawns with one large open lawn in the northwest. Several statues, fountains and plazas serve as focal points. The park is well supplied with benches and lights. There are several active recreational facilities: a large spray area (the frog pond) located in the center of the park near Beacon Street, a small playground located to the east of the spray area, softball and little league fields and tennis courts located in the southeast corner of the site. There is a bandstand and a comfort station in the center of the site near Park Street.

Condition Assessments:

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SITE SUMMARY



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ESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:	LAYOUT/ORGANIZATION OF SPACE	USE OF PLANT MATERIALS	APPROPRIATENESS-OF-PARK- FUNCTIONS-TO-NEICHBORHOOD-	BARRIER FREE DESIGN	DRAINAGE CONDITION	DESIGN-RELATED SOVE WELL	VANDALISM	VACANT PARCEL TO SOUTH, EAST	ISIBILITY AND SAFETY:	VISIBILITY INTO SPACE	VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE	HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE		CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:	STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS	SPORTS FACILITIES	PLAYGROUNDS	BUILDINGS Forldhips associate	NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	PRIMARY SITE ISSHES:

SITE NO.





CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



Weighborhood: BACK BAY BERCON HILL

Site Type: Playlot Site Name: CLARENDON Tor Lor

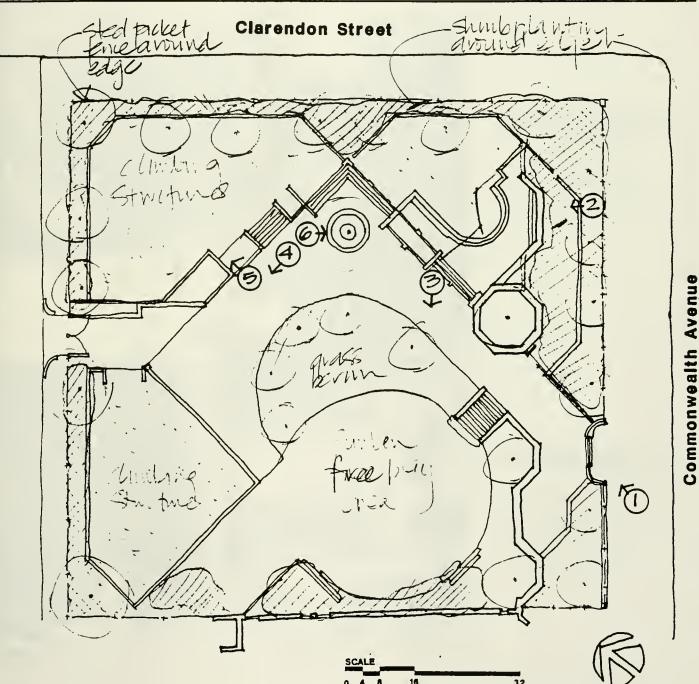
Location: CLASSHOON & COMMONWEAUTH Acreage: 0.334

Evaluation Team: 5+ 4 194 Weather Conditions:

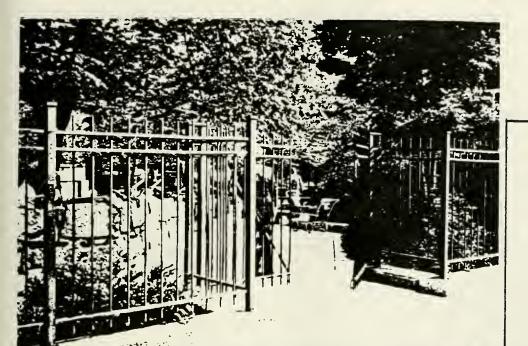
Evaluation Date: 5.72.87 Sunny

Surrounding Land Uses: Residintra

Site Plan

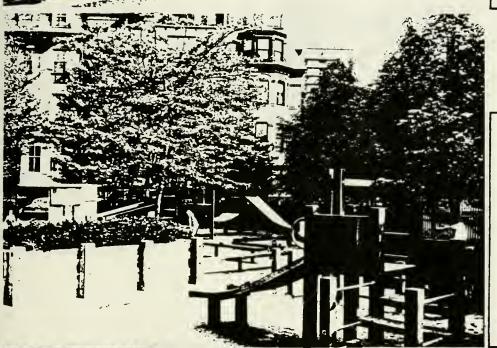






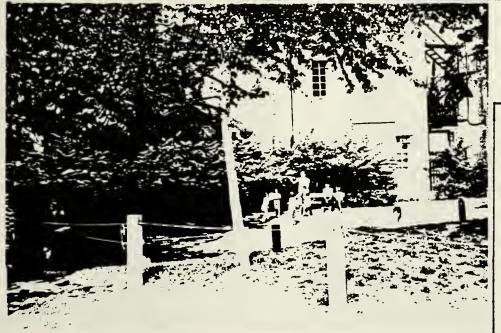


Steel picket fence on granite mow-strip. Recessed gate makes an inviting entrance. Healthy planting along edge.



Site Photograph 2

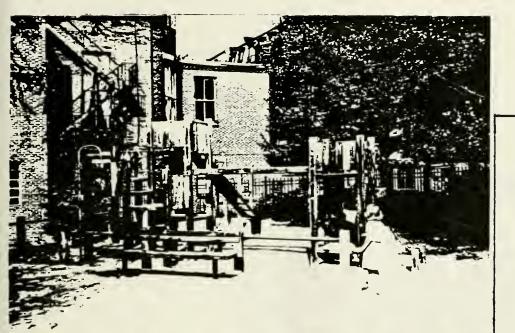
View shows timber and metal play structures. Trees along fence define edge and provide shade.



Site Photograph 3

Sunken free play area with flowering shrubs at base of wall. Grassed slope in foreground with Birch trees.







Timber and metal play structures.



Site Photograph 5

Illustrates how close tire swings are to support post.



Site Photograph 6

Honeylocust developing thorns. Should be removed from trunk and lower limbs to be removed as necessary.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Clarendon Tot Lot

Location: Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue

Acreage: 0.33 A
Site Type: Play Lot

Site Description:

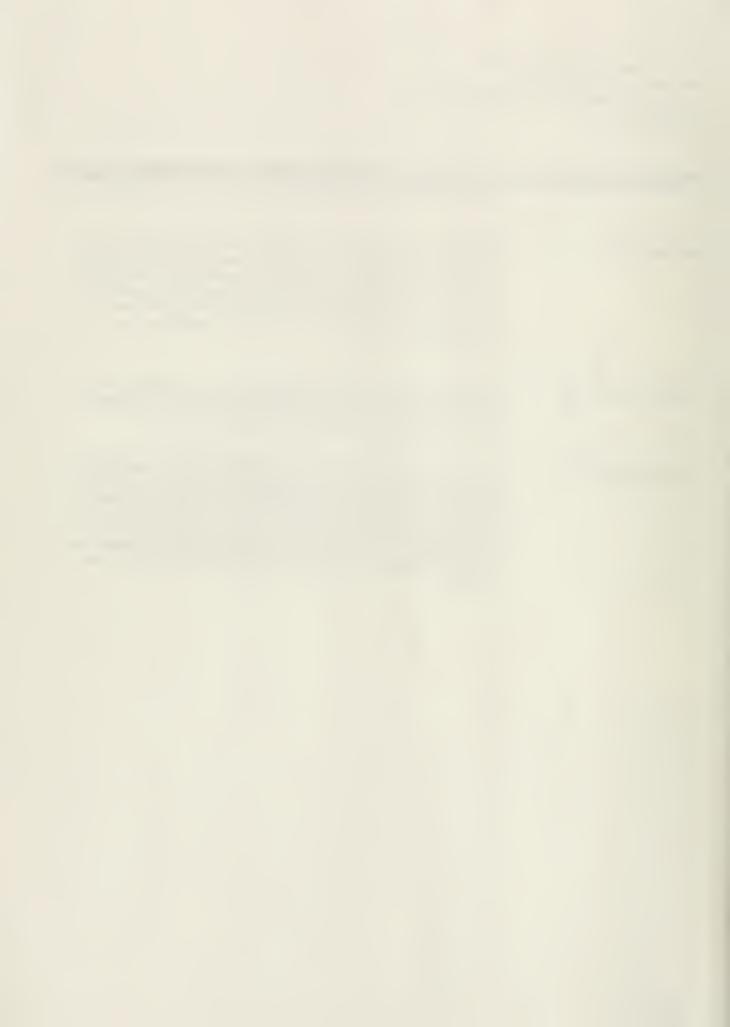
Clarendon Tot Lot is a small square site on the corner of Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue. To the west is a five-story townhouse and to the north an alleyway. The park is enclosed with six-foot steel picket fencing, shrubbery and trees. The park is divided into four play areas surrounding a small bermed grass area. Three areas have play structures and the fourth, a lower area, is covered with mulch for free play. Most of the shrub plantings are located within raised planters.

Condition Assessments:

All standard park-built elements are in good condition. The plantings are in extraordinarily good condition, given the high intensity of use. The play structures are in generally good condition. Some elements need repair.

Major Site Issues:

The design of Clarendon Tot Lot has successfully created an enhanced sense of space in a relatively small area. This park appears as a beautiful play garden because of the unusual growth and vigor of the shrub and flower plantings. This success is undoubtedly due to the high level of adult supervision of children's play as well as the fact that the park is equipped with a lockable gate. The locust tree in the park, a thornless variety, is reverting back to a thorny condition, which occasionally happens. The tree needs to be limbed up and the trunk sprouts removed.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Clarendon Tot Lot No.: BB-2

Location: Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue

Acreage: 0.33 A Site Type: Play Lot

Site Description:

Clarendon Tot Iot is a small square site on the corner of Clarendon Street and Commonwealth Avenue. To the west is a five-story townhouse and to the north an alleyway. The park is enclosed with six foot steel picket fencing, shrubbery and trees. The park is divided into four play areas surrounding a small bermed grass area. Three areas have play structures and the fourth, a lower area, is covered with mulch for free play. Most of the shrub plantings are located within raised planters.

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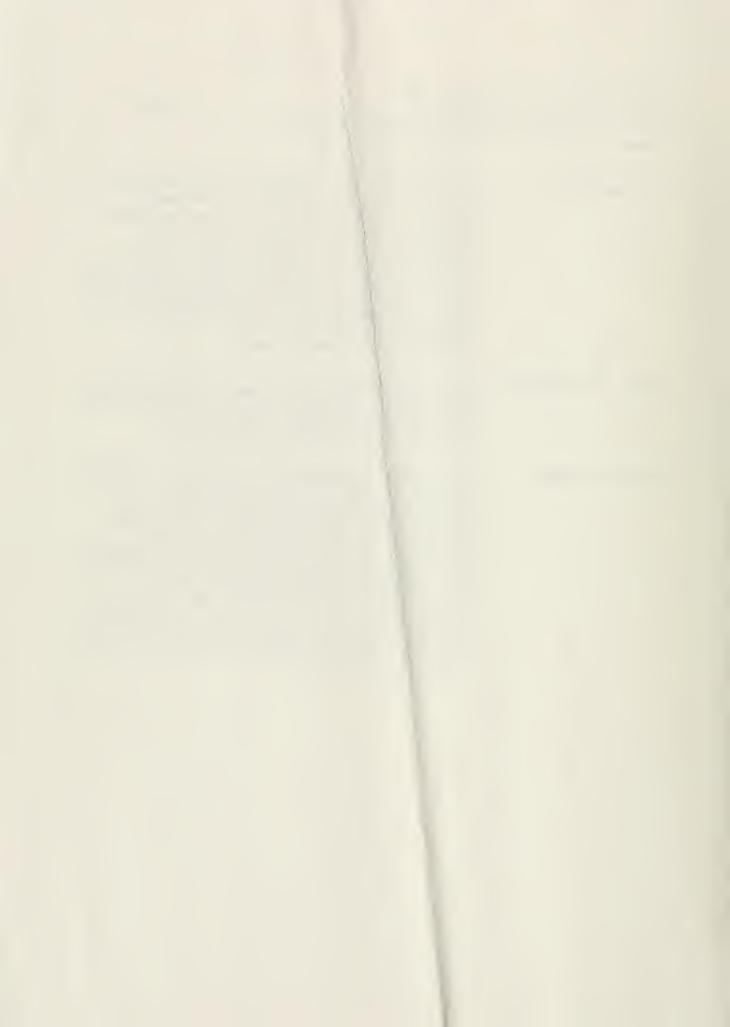
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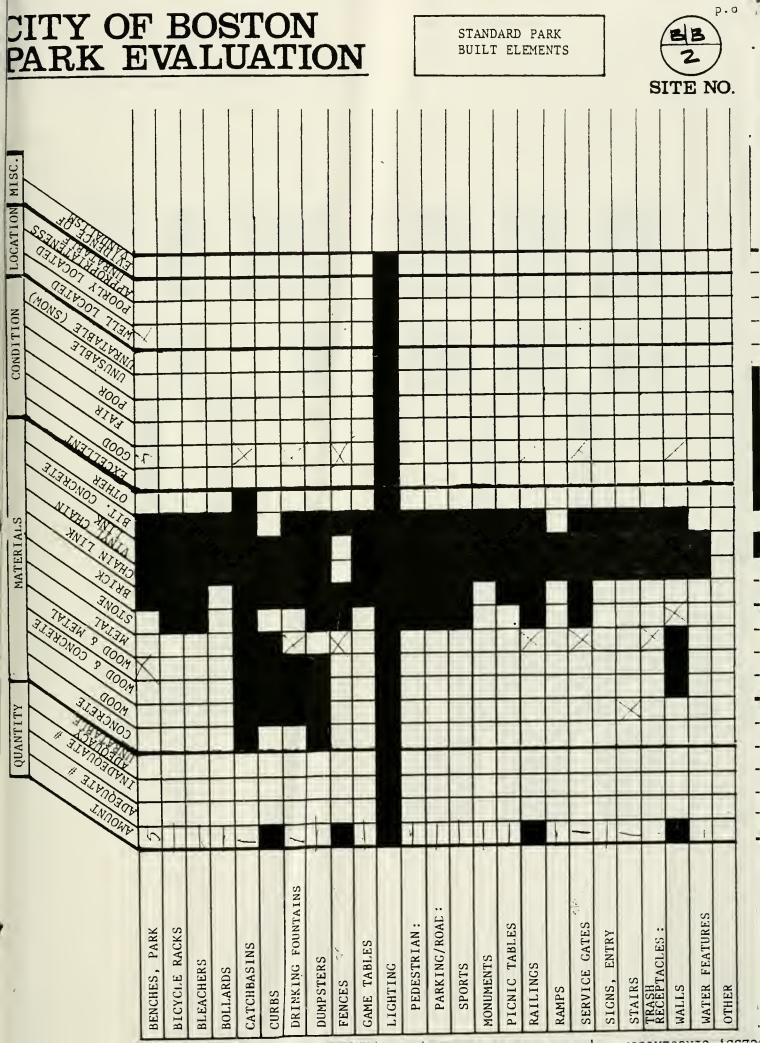
trunk sprouts removed.





CONSIDERATIONS: TYPORGANIZATION OF SPACE / LOLD A COLUMN AND SAVETY: THE REAL PARCE TO SOUTH, EAST MAD THE RAIL PARCE TO SOUTH, EAST MAD THE PARCE TO SOUTH,	PARK	EVALUATION SITE SUMMARY	
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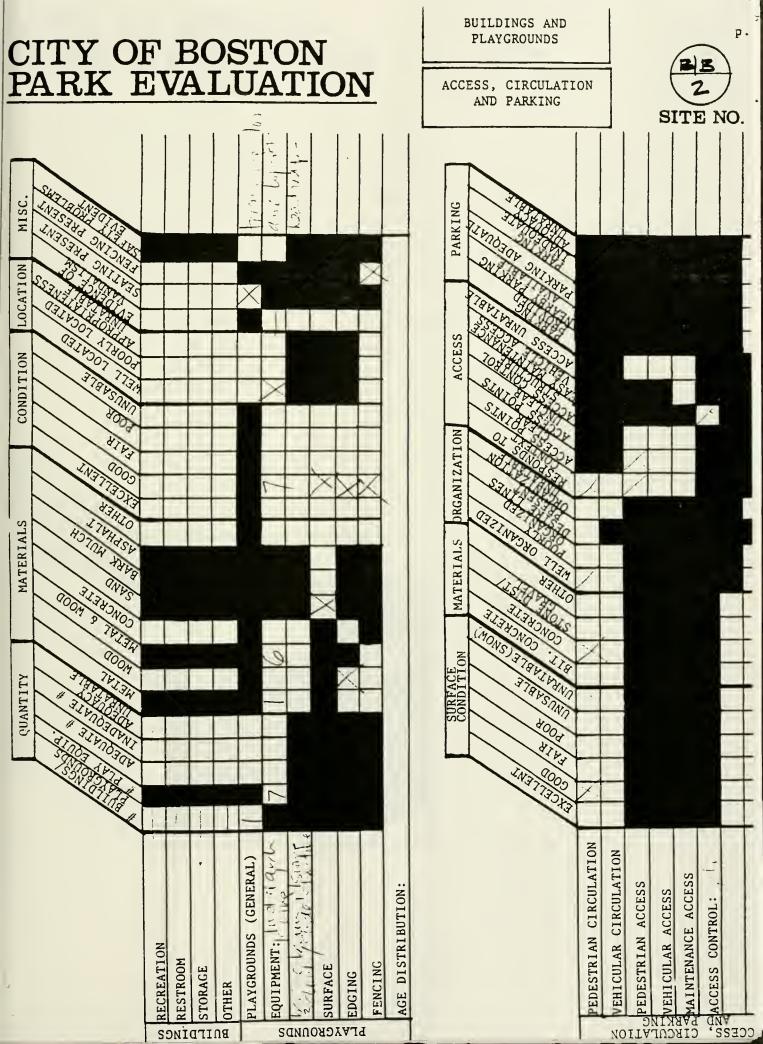


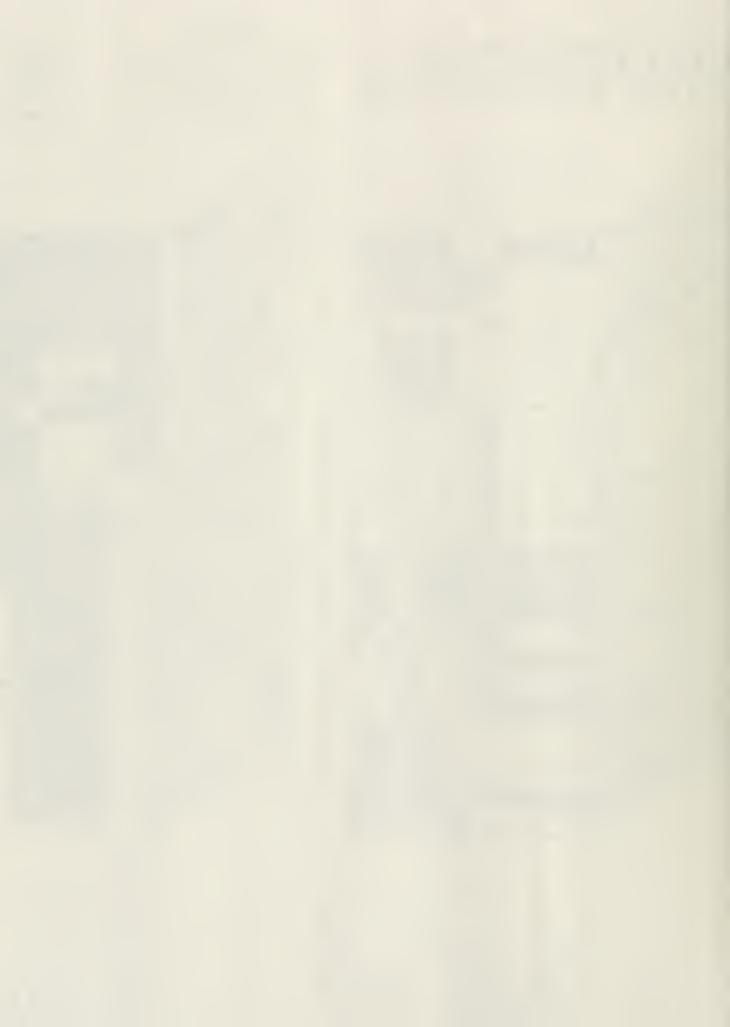




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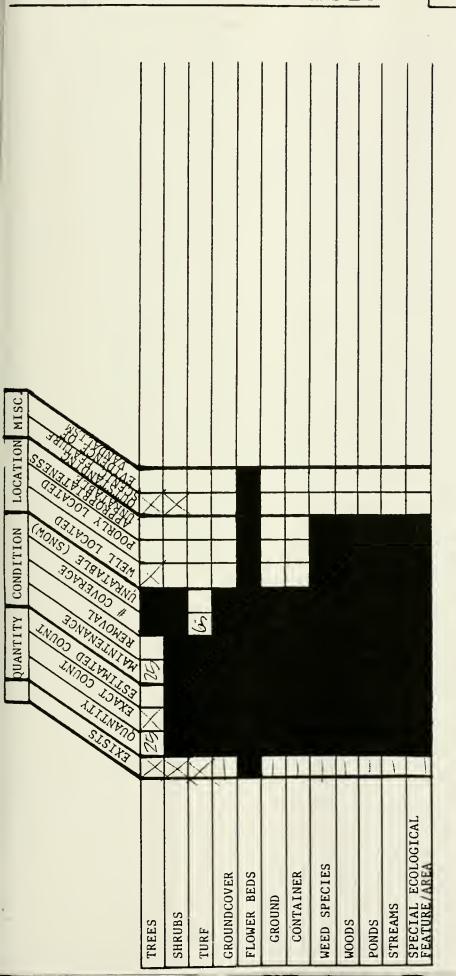




CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS









CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



Site Type: PLAYLST

Weather Conditions:

Acreage: 0.17A

Neighborhood: BKKBAY BEKON HILL

Site Name: MYETE STEEET P.A.

Location: Myrte & South Russel

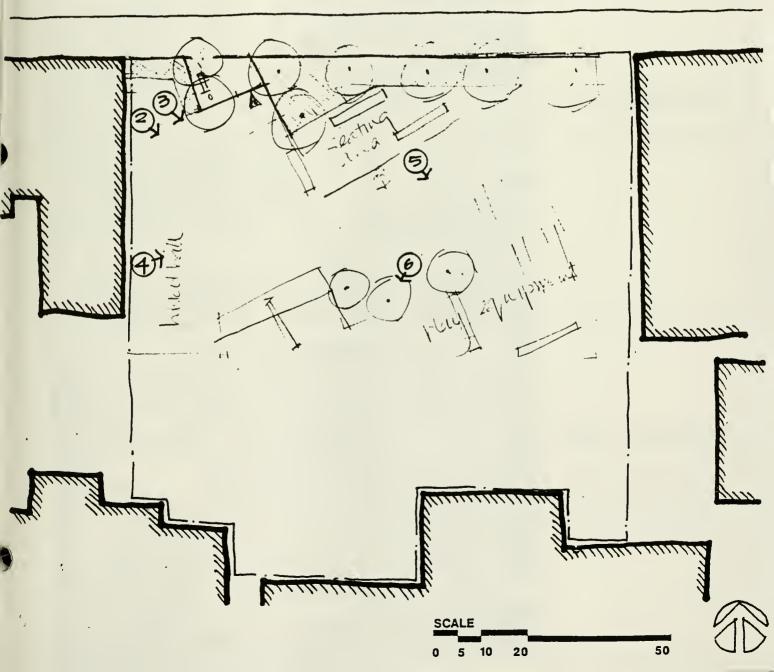
Evaluation Team: BCH 95F

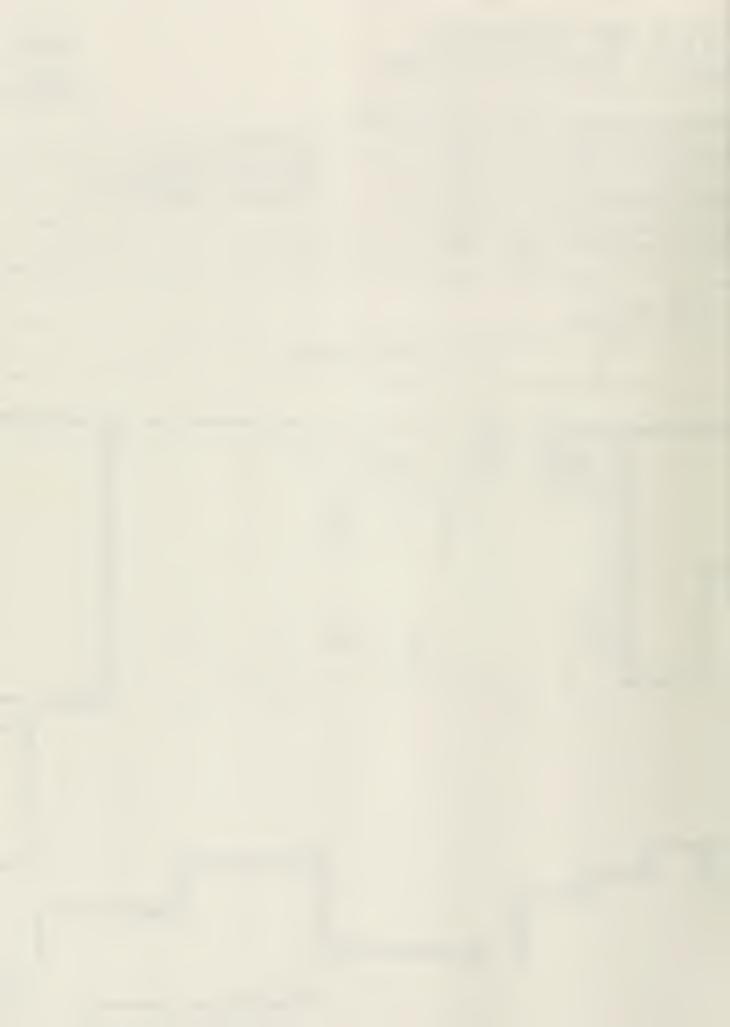
Evaluation Date: 5.28.87

Surrounding Land Uses: PESIDEATIAL

Site Plan

Myrtle Street

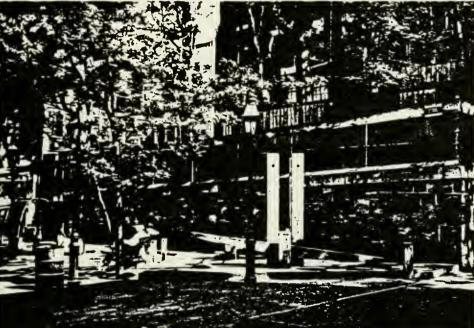








View into the park from across street. Shows steel picket fence around edge with indentation at entrance. Honeylocust provide tall canopy of filtered shade.



Site Photograph 2

Timber play structures.



Site Photograph 3

Play equipment in far corner with seating areas in foreground. Gas lamps an easy target for vandals.







Raised sitting area with planted area behind.



Site Photograph 5

Unusable spray feature.



Site Photograph 6

Inadequate planting pit. Note rotting wood edging around edge of safety surface play area.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill Site Name: Myrtle Street Play Area Location: Myrtle and South Russell Streets

Acreage: 0.17 A
Site Type: Playlot

Site Description:

Myrtle Street Play Area is a small square site on the south side of Myrtle Street. The park is surrounded on the other three sides by townhouses. There is an iron picket fence along Myrtle Street. There are wooden and metal play structures in the southern half of the park. Planting beds and a sitting area are located along the northern edge adjacent to Myrtle Street. The western half of the site once had a basketball court which has been removed.

Condition Assessments:

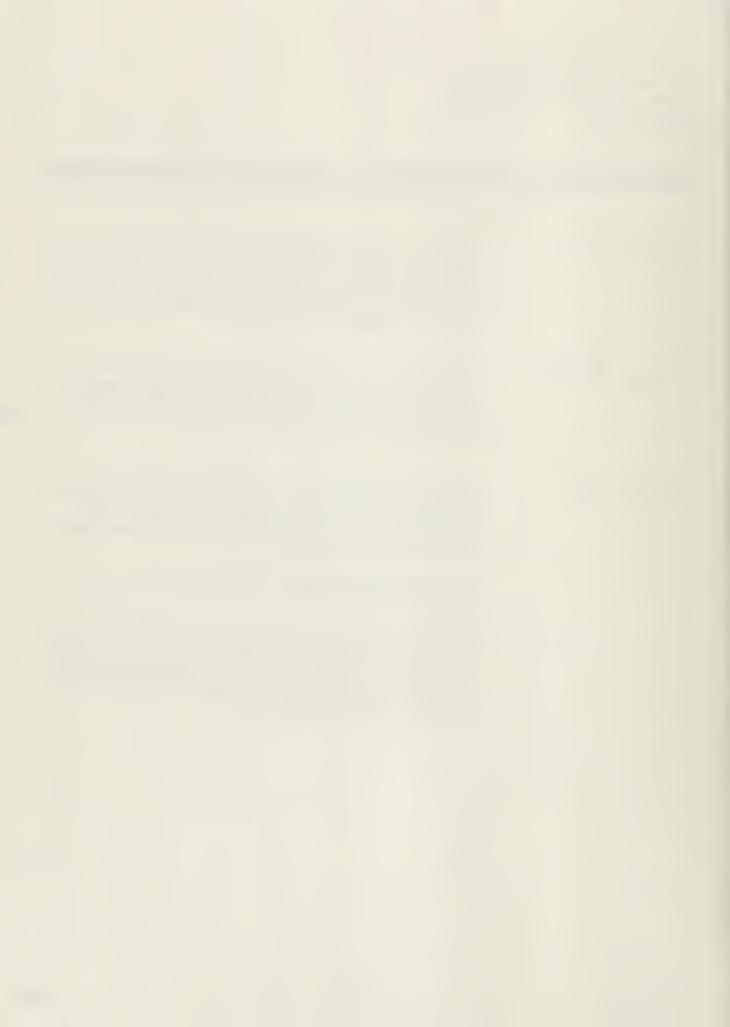
The benches, paving, fencing and most of the lights are in good condition. The glass is broken on a number of lights. Most of the wood edging and stairs are starting to rot and are in fair to poor condition. The play structure is in fair to poor condition. The trees and shrubs are in fair condition. Renovations to the playground are scheduled by the City.

Major Site Issues:

Myrtle Street Play Area is laid out at a 45° angle to Myrtle Street and the surrounding buildings. While this was most probably an attempt to develop a more dynamic space than the City grid might allow, it instead produces a tension between park and surroundings, and creates awkward angular planting beds. The park entrance is also somewhat pinched.

Although the gas lighting fixtures are delightful, historic gestures, the glass of the light is a target for play or vandalism.

The site's vegetation is in fair condition, except for the junipers which do not tolerate shade well and are doing poorly under the shade of the locust trees. The park is predominantly paved and more areas of vegetation could be developed. Species should be used that are shade tolerant. In implementing renovations to the park, care should be taken to protect the trees. The best re-use for the former basketball court area should be determined.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill Site Name: Myrtle Street Play Area

Location: Myrtle and South Russell Streets Acreage: 0.17 A Site Type: Playlot

Site Description:

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No.: BB-3

Condition Assessments:

The benches, paving, fencing and most of the lights are in good condition. The glass is broken on a number of lights. Most of the wood edging and stairs are starting to rot and are in fair to poor condition. The play structure is in fair to poor condition. The trees and shrubs are in fair condition. Renovations to the playground are scheduled by the City.

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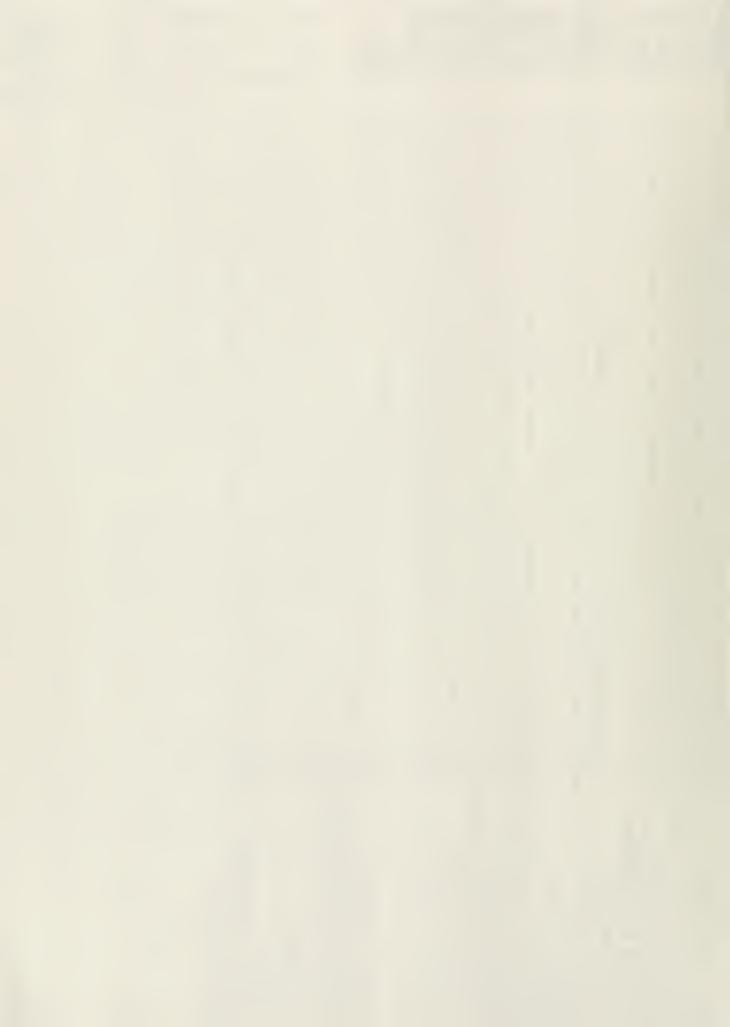
Although the gas lighting fixtures are delightful, historic gestures, the glass of the light is a target for play or vandalism.

The site's vegetation is in fair condition, except for the Junipers which do not tolerate shade well and are doing poorly under the shade of the Locust trees. The park is predominantly paved and more areas of vegetation could be developed. Species should be used that are shade tolerant. In implementing renovations to the park, care should be taken to protect the trees. The best re-use for the former basketball court area should be determined.





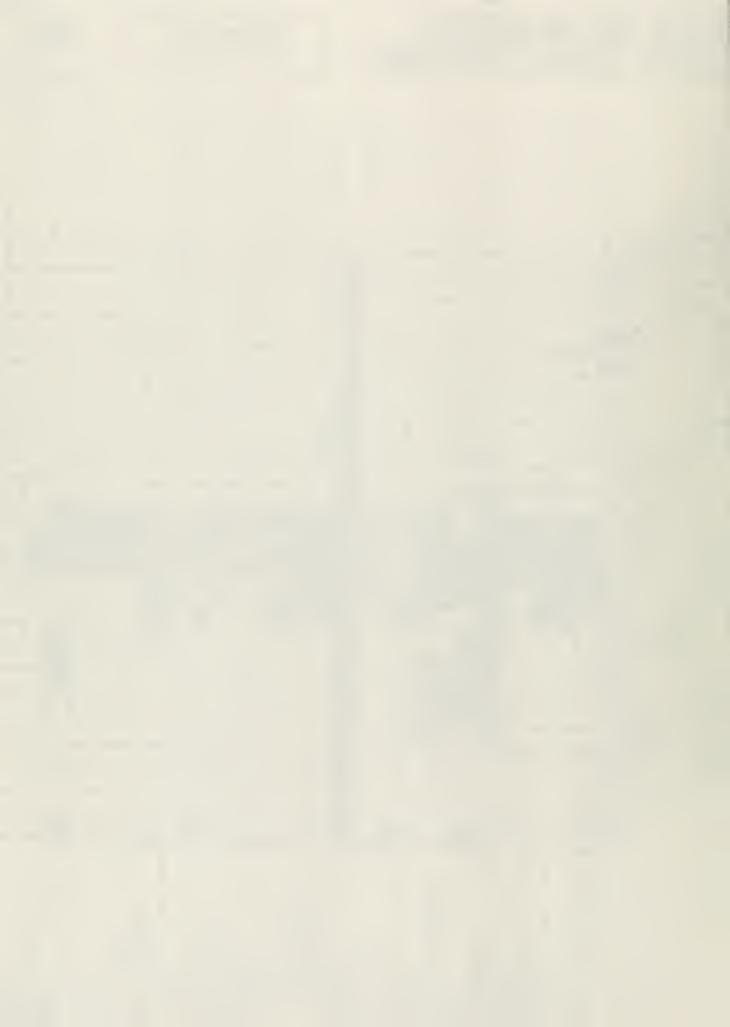
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PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:		SUM
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STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS

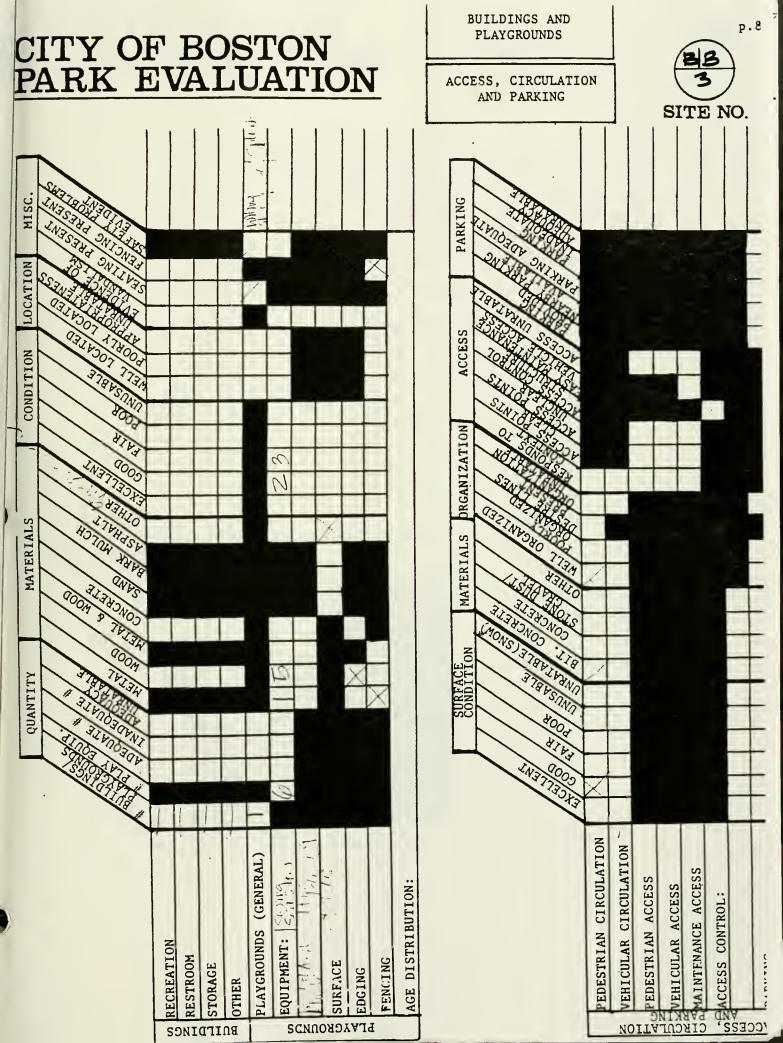


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NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS



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Neighborhood: BULLERY BROWN HILL

Site Name: Phurs STREET P.A. Site Type: PLANT

Location: PHILLIPS Acreage: 0.134

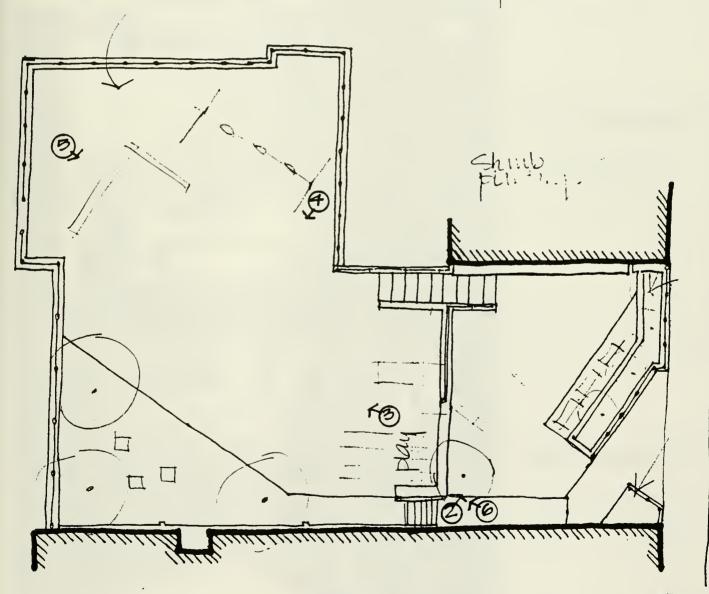
Evaluation Team: 30H 4 5F Weather Conditions:

Evaluation Date: 5,23,97

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

Site Plan

- seating heatest in the river to



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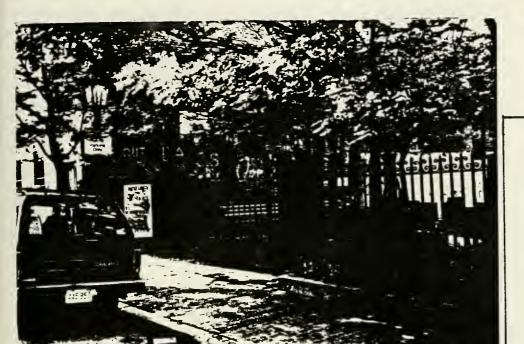
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Jennin Char







Site Photograph 1

Park front edged with decorative metal fence with plant bed behind entrance indented.



Site Photograph 2

Upper level sitting area and broken apray equipment.



Site Photograph 3

Lower level play equipment, tire swings unusable. Benches needed in far corner.







Site Photograph 4

Game tables and benches.



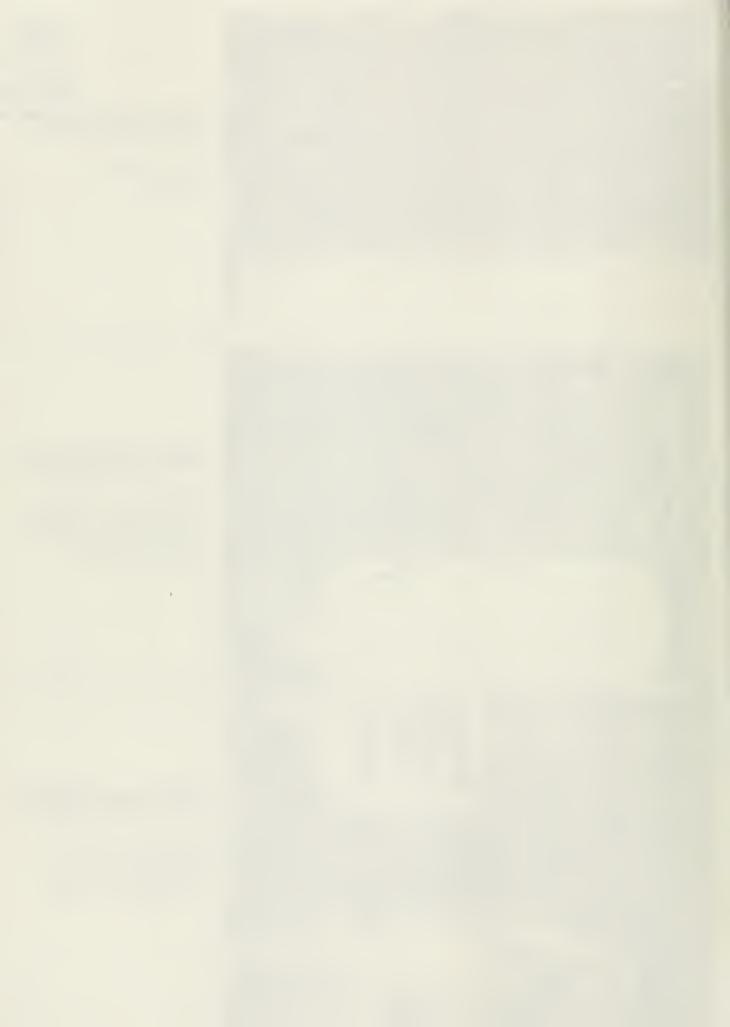
Site Photograph 5

Basketball area with no backboard. Slides and climbing equipment built up against terrace wall.



Site Photograph 6

View from upper level. Wisteria from neighboring property enhancing park edge.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill Site Name: Phillips Street Play Area

Location: Phillips Street

Acreage: 0.13 A Site Type: Playlot

Site Description:

Phillips Street Play Area is a small, irregularly shaped park on the north side of Phillips Street bordered by the walls of residences on the east and west. There is a garden of an abutting apartment building to the north. The Phillips Street edge is enclosed with a steel picket fence. The site consists of two terrace levels. The upper terrace adjacent to Phillips Street has a small play structure and sitting area with trees and shrub beds. Two stairs, one on the east edge and one on the west, lead down to a lower play area with a basketball court, game tables and play structures. Play structures are attached to the wall between the two terraces.

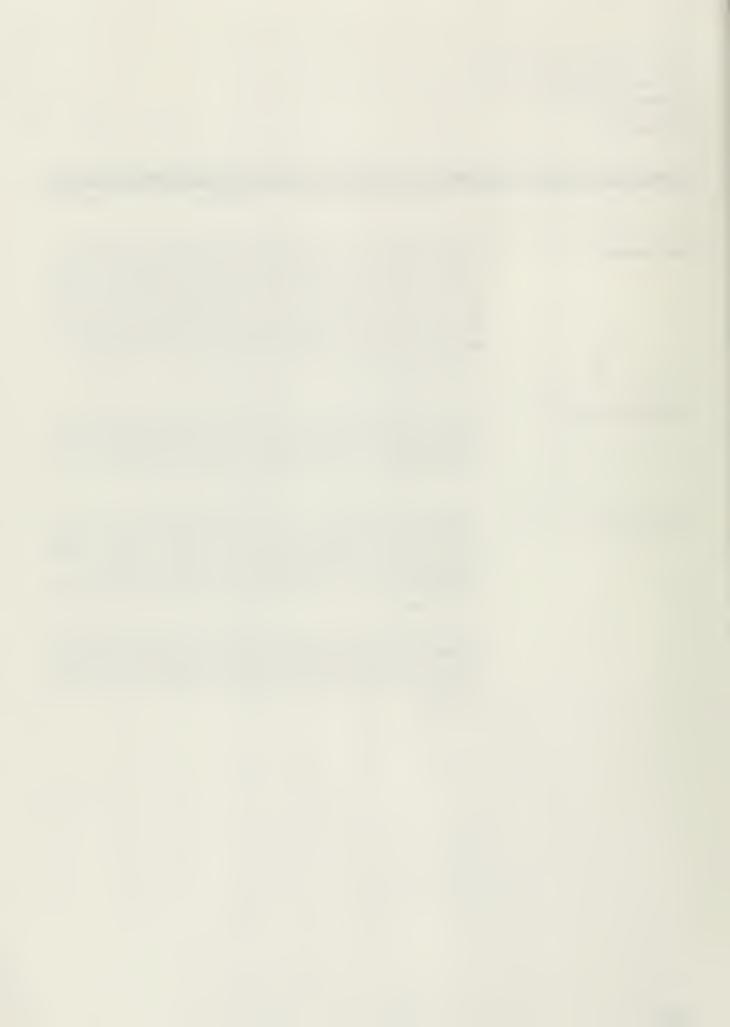
Condition Assessments:

Most standard-park built elements are in good condition except for some gas lamps which are in fair or poor condition because the glass has been broken. The paving is generally in good condition as are the trees, shrubs and groundcovers. The play structures are mostly in fair to good condition, except for a few which are in poor condition. A tire swing is missing and needs replacement.

Major Site Issues:

There are many positive elements to the design of Phillips Street Play Area. The decorative metal fence along Phillips Street and the shrub planting along this side provide a strong edge and inviting presence on the street. The connection of the terraces by means of play structures is innovative, although there should be a railing along the top of the wall. The park is fortunate to abut a garden and share the lush vegetation.

The small size of the park and the lack of visibility into the lower terrace from the . street are its major limitations. If the lower-level sitting area had been located in the east corner of the space, it could have taken advantage of evening sun. The historic gas lamps are attractive features of the park, but unfortunately vulnerable to breakage.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill Site Name: <u>Phillips Street Play Area</u>

Location: Phillips Street

Acreage: 0.13 A Site Type: Playlot

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No.: BB-4

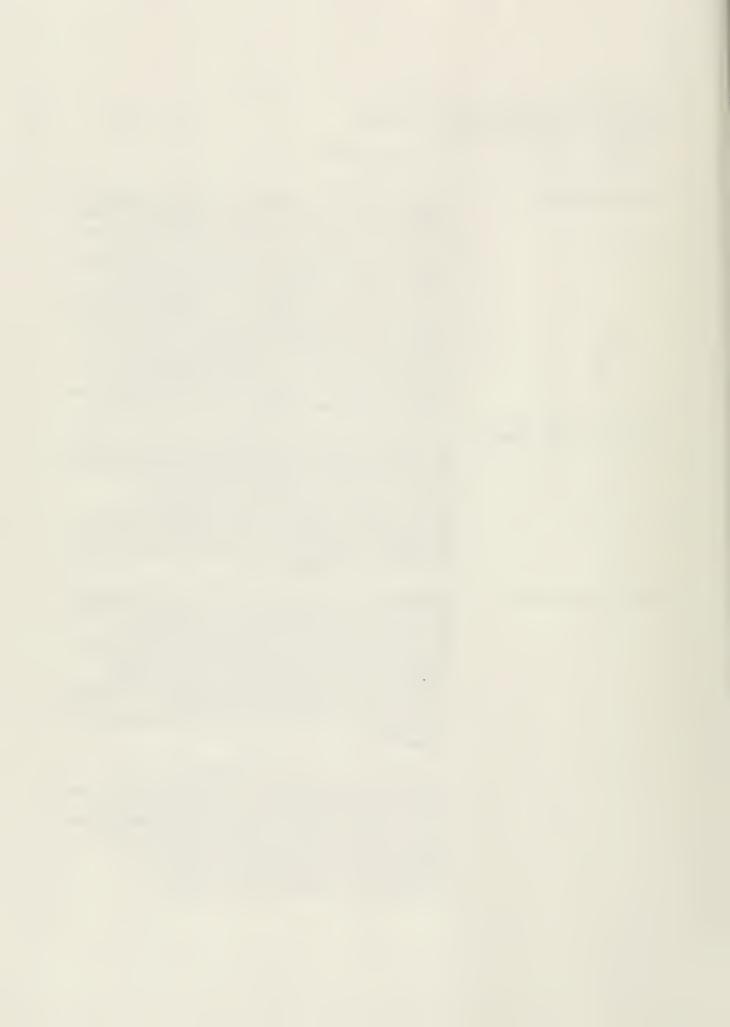
Condition Assessments:

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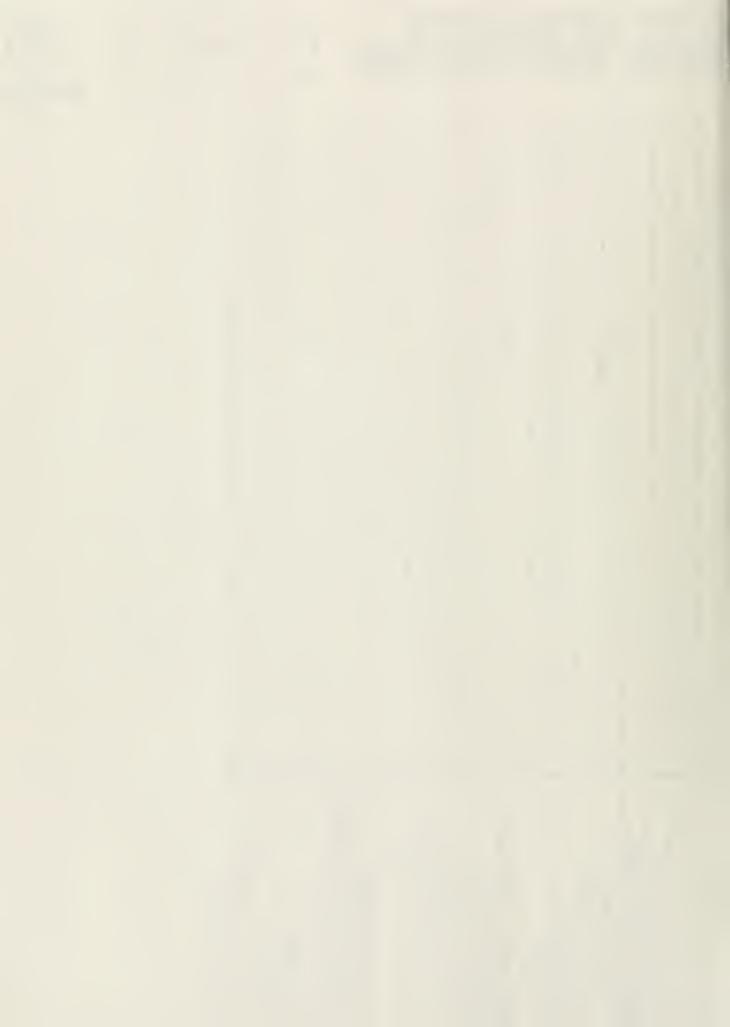
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SITE SUMMARY

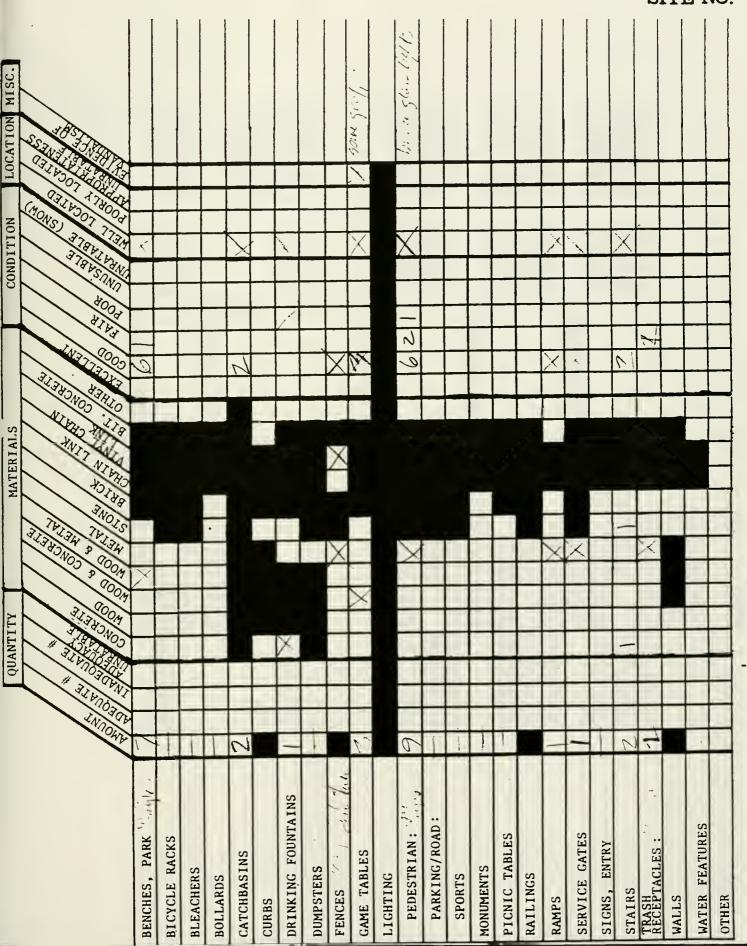


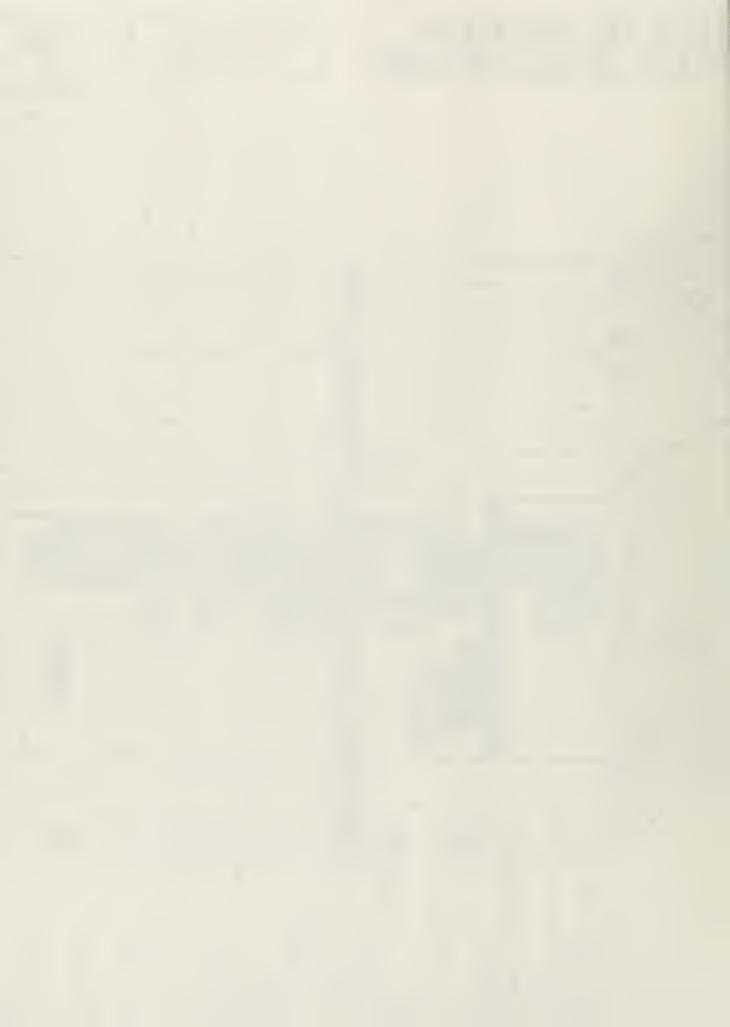
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PLAYGROUNDS	
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NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS	
PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:	

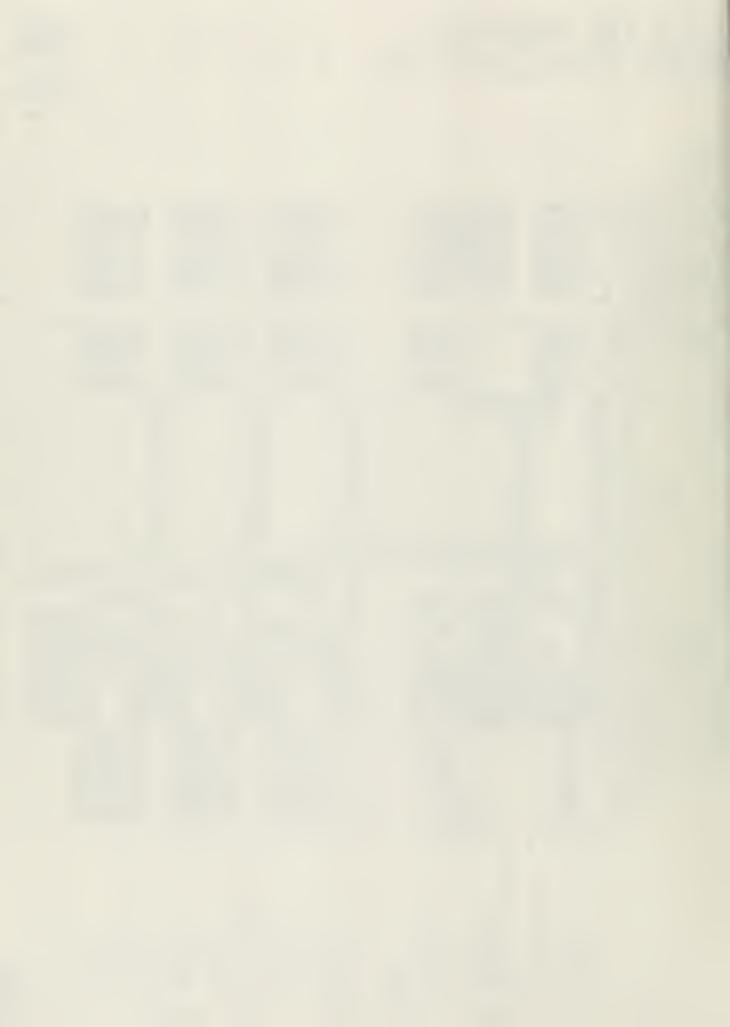


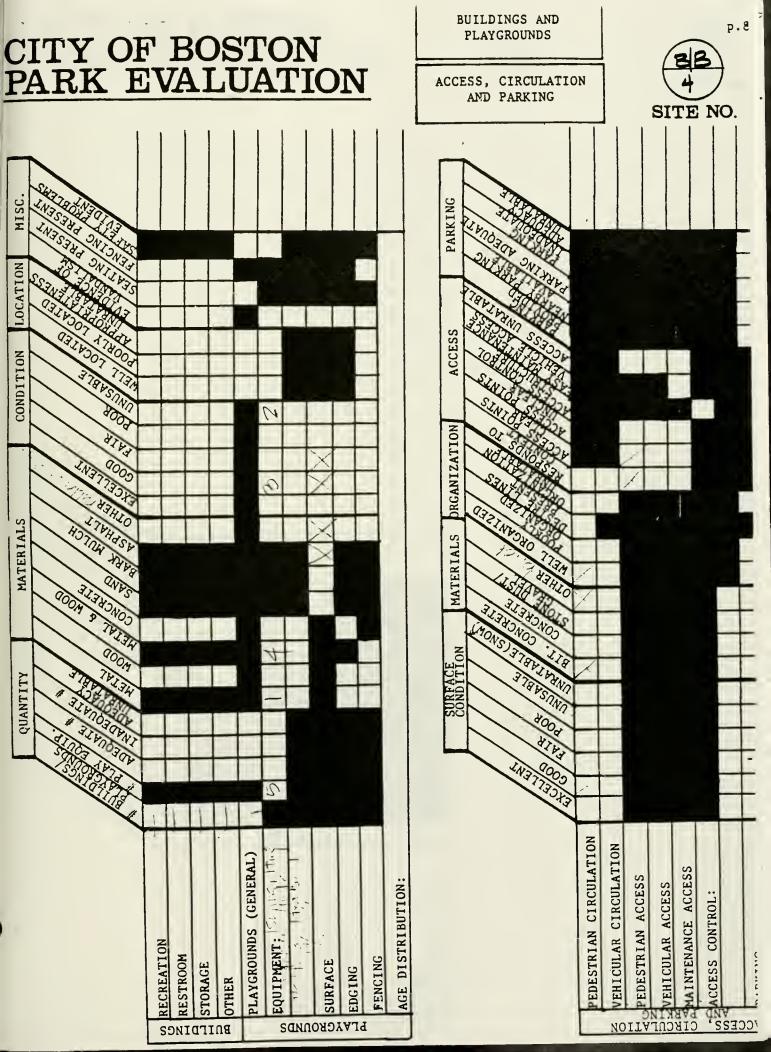
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS

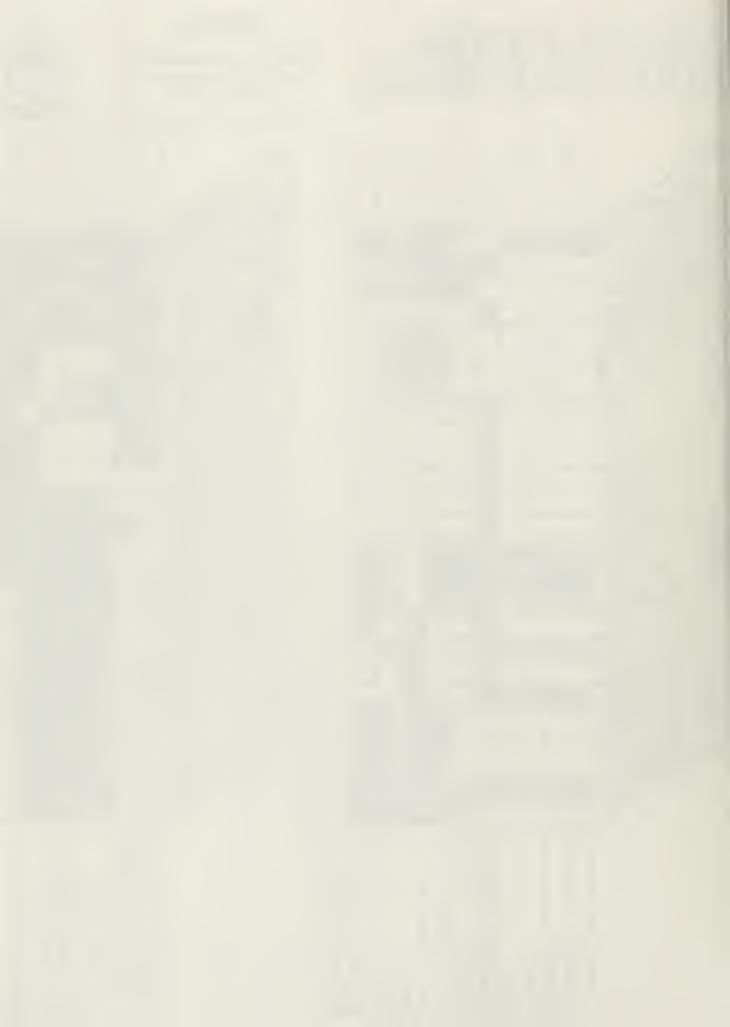






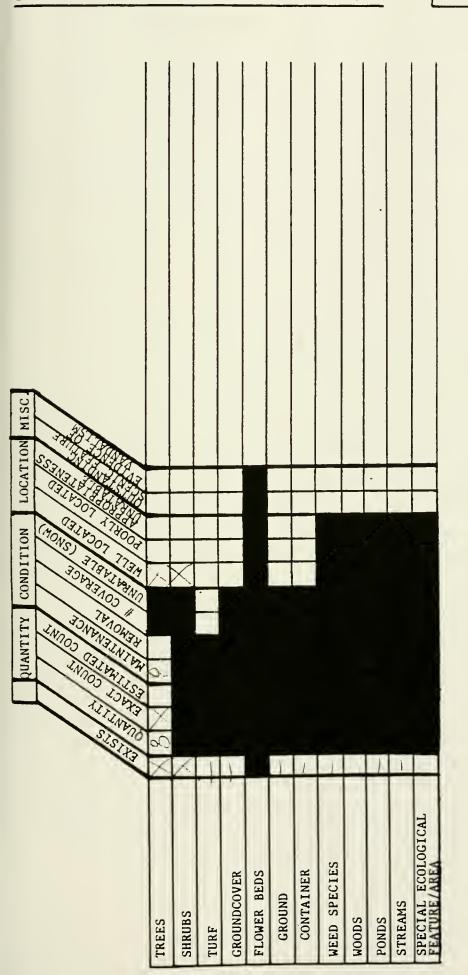






NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS













eighborhood: BACK BAY BEKCON HULL

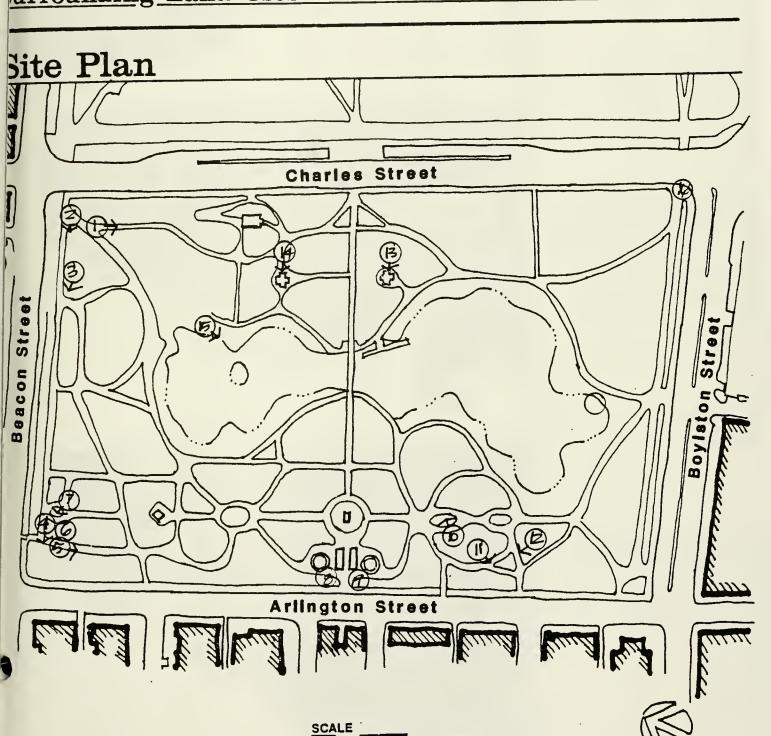
ite Name: PUBLIC GARDEN Site Type: File 15

ocation: ARUNUTCH, BEKCH, BOTHSHOW CHERACTER 9: 24.25A

valuation Team: 57 Feet Weather Conditions:

valuation Date: 5.29 87

urrounding Land Uses: Residental/Committeel



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View from entrance into park. At left, grass eroded by foot traffic. At right, post and chain— very effective at keeping people off grass.



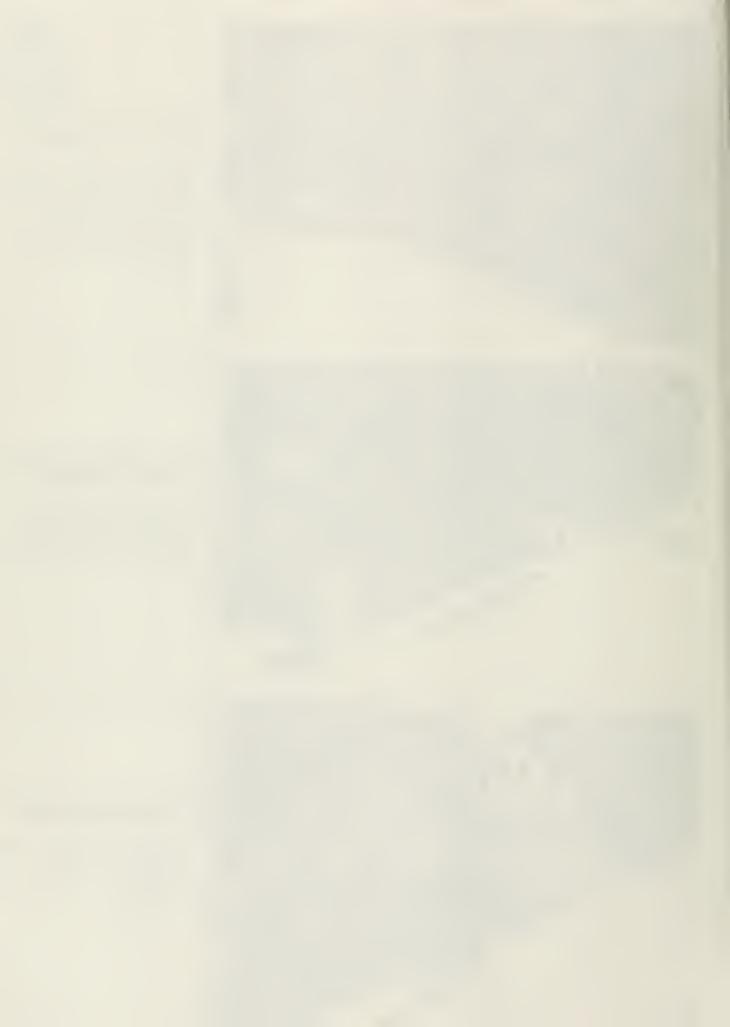
Site Photograph 2

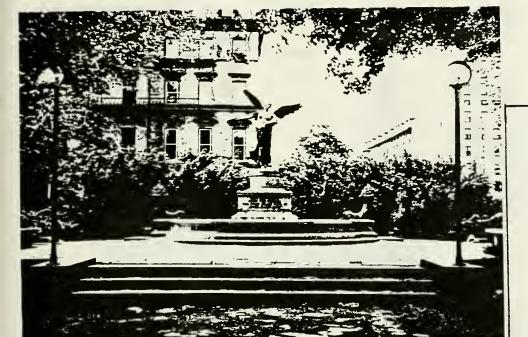
Shrub and ornamental plant beds along edge of park. Cobble edge protects planting beds.



Site Photograph 3

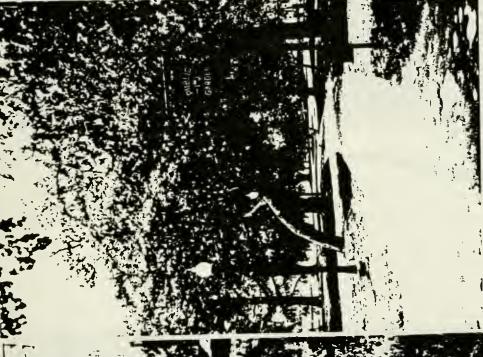
Pruning of shrubs allows natural, graceful character of plants to exist.







Fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 5

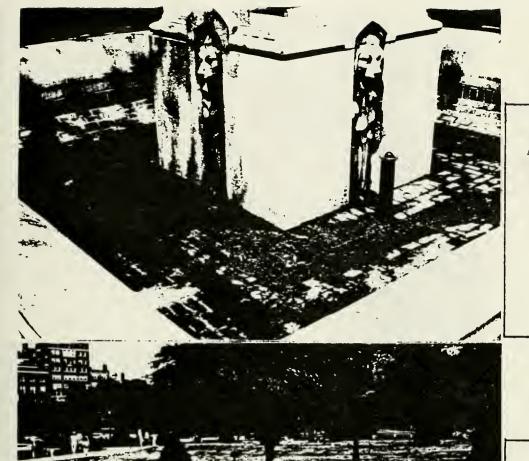
Signage and lighting fixtures help to establish character of park.



Site Photograph 6

A plant bed that is underplanted.







A fountain-- not working.

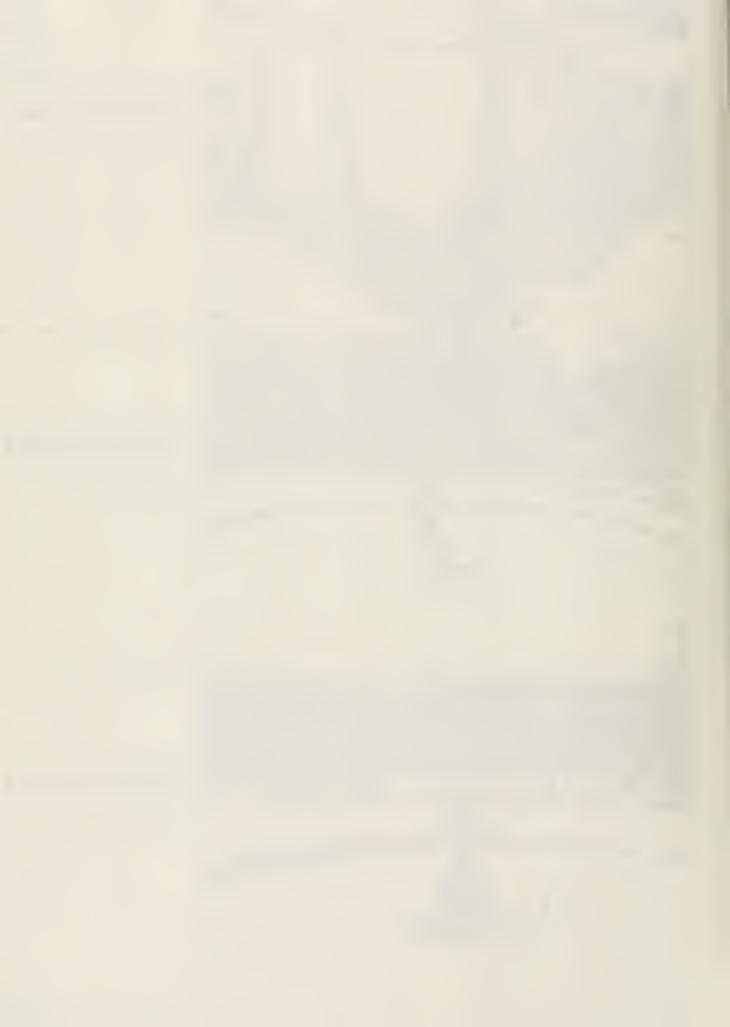
Site Photograph 8

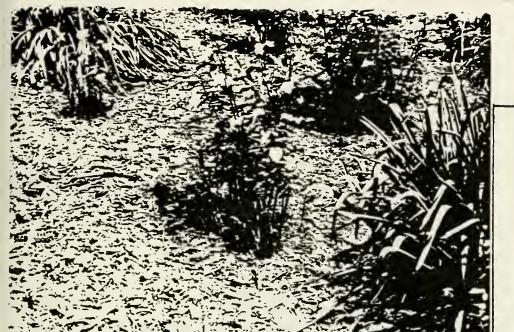
A fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 9

A fountain-- not working.







Roses in plant bed-roses need improved
pruning to remove dead
growth.



Site Photograph 11

Desire lines through park eroding grass and compacting soil over tree roots.



Site Photograph 12

Trash build up around trash barrels.







Fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 14

Fountain-- not working.



Site Photograph 15

Edging around pond settling in some areas.







Ornamental fencing and historic sign around edge of park.

Site Photograph 17

Site Photograph 18



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Public Gardens

Location: Arlington, Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets

Acreage: 24.25 A Site Type: Passive Park

Site Description:

The Public Gardens is a large rectangular site surrounded by Charles Street on the east, Boylston Street on the south, Arlington Street on the west and Beacon Street on the north. The park is well provided with a great variety of deciduous shade trees, shrub and flower beds. Six fountains and several statues serve as focal points for the garden. A curvilinear duck pond is the central element of the park. It is highlighted with swan boat rides and an elegant chain suspension bridge which spans the pond carrying the central axis path from Commonwealth Avenue Mall to the Boston Common. The Gardens are enclosed with an ornamental iron fence. Surrounding land uses are commercial and residential.

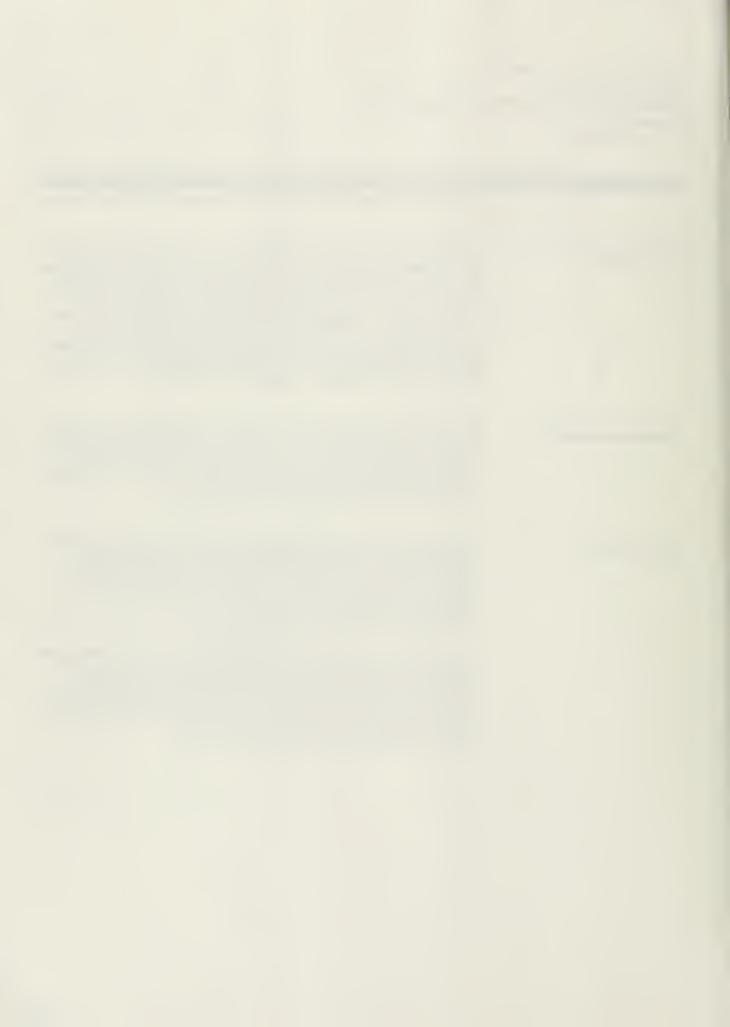
Condition Assessments:

Most standard park-built elements are in good to excellent condition. The major exception is the fact that none of the six fountains are operating, although each appears to be in good condition. The trees, shrubs, flowers and grass all appear well maintained and in good condition, with the exception of bare patches in grass areas. Renovations to the park are scheduled by the City.

Major Site Issues:

The Public Gardens is an extraordinary park and one of the prominent landscape features of Boston. Its mature and diverse collection of trees, its delightful diversity of fountains, and its expanse of lawns surrounding the duck pond all contribute to the high visual quality of the space. Its establishment in 1839 extended the open space of the Common and ensured the provision of an elaborate botanical garden for the developing City. L.c.

On the whole, maintenance is very good, with the exception that trash needs more frequent removal from receptacles. The edging around the pond has settled in places and needs repair. Fountains are all in need of repair, and would add immeasurably to the park if in operation. The heavy use of the site is evident in desire lines and worn patches in the grass. Compacted dirt around trees will cause stress by denying water and oxygen intake of the roots.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Public Gardens No.: BB-5

Location: Arlington, Beacon, Charles and Boylston Streets

Acreage: 24.25 A Site Type: Passive Park

Site Description:

The Public Gardens is a large rectangular site surrounded by Charles Street on the east, Boylston Street on the south, Arlington Street on the west and Beacon Street on the north. The park is well provided with a great variety of deciduous shade trees, shrub and flower beds. Six fountains and several statues serve as focal points for the garden. A curvilinear duck pond is the central element of the park. It is highlighted with swan boat rides and an elegant chain suspension bridge which spans the pond carrying the central axis path from Commonwealth Avenue Mall to the Boston Common. The Gardens are enclosed with an ornamental iron fence. Surrounding land uses are commercial and residential.

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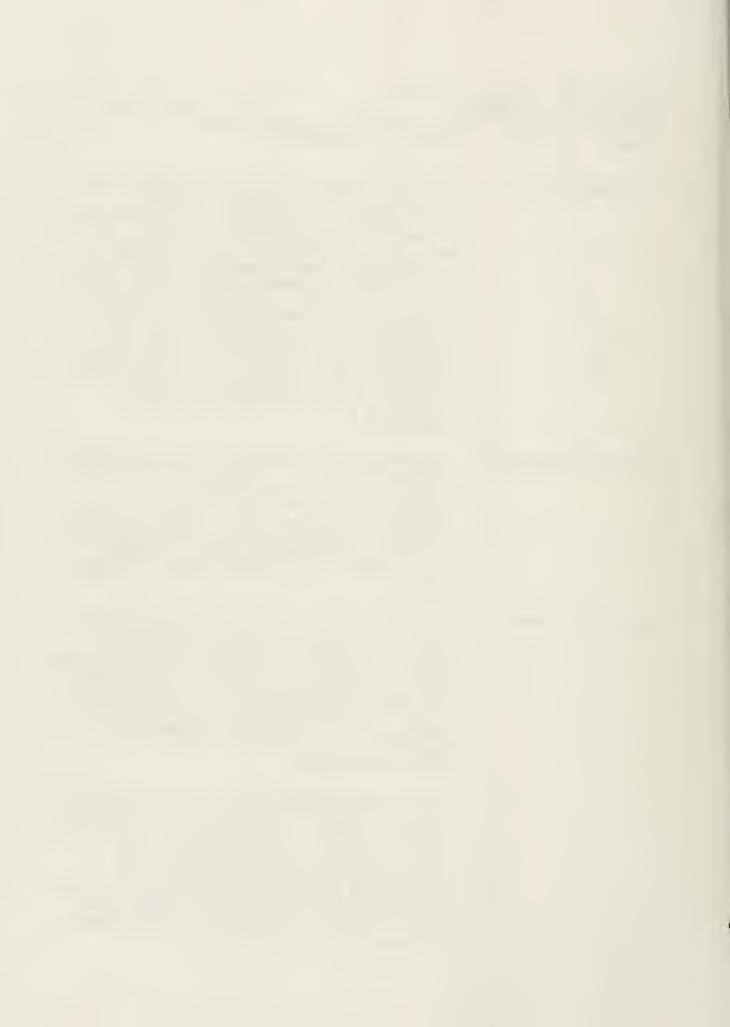
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SITE SUMMARY

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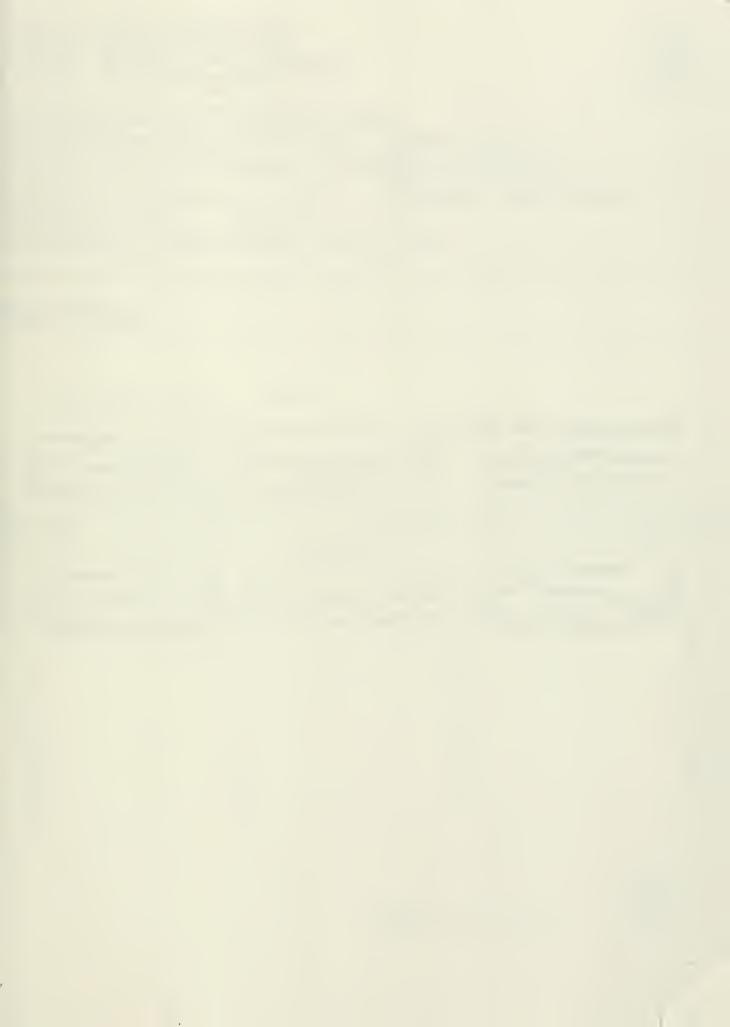
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VISIBILITY INTO SPACE		A
VISIBILITY OUT FROM SPACE		1
HIDDEN CORNERS IN SPACE		10
CONDITION ASSESSMENTS:		N
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS		
SPORTS FACILITIES		
PLAYGROUNDS		
BUILDINGS		
NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS		
PRIMARY SITE ISSUES:		





CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION Veighborhood: BLCK BAY BEKON HILL AND AMORT SQUARE) SITE NO. Site Name: DARTHOUTH STREET MALL Site Type: Mall Location: Darthouth STREET MALL Site Type: Mall Location: Decreary www. Boucon! Edward Acreage: 1.1 Evaluation Team: SF 3 BH Weather Conditions: Evaluation Date: 5.22.87 Surrounding Land Uses: Residential, Commercial. Site Plan See B/B 12 for survey. COMMONWOOMAN AN 500 200









Veighborhood: BACK BAY | BEACON HILL

Site Name: (am Ave Man (1 of 3) Site Type: Mall

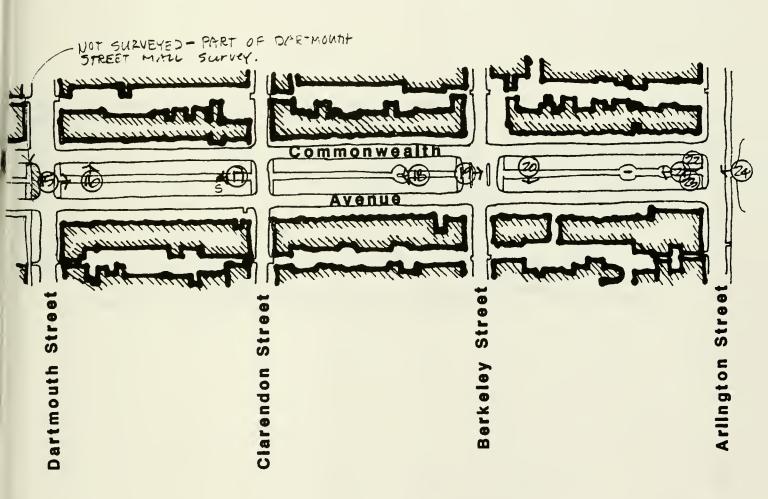
Location: Comm Ave (ARUNGTON TO KENNOW) Acreage: 2.0 A

Evaluation Team: FF & RCF Weather Conditions: F- R-

Evaluation Date: 5.22.27

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

Site Plan



SCALE 0 50 100 · 200 500







Neighborhood: BACKBAY BECOM HILL

Site Name: Commare Mul (2013) Site Type: Mall

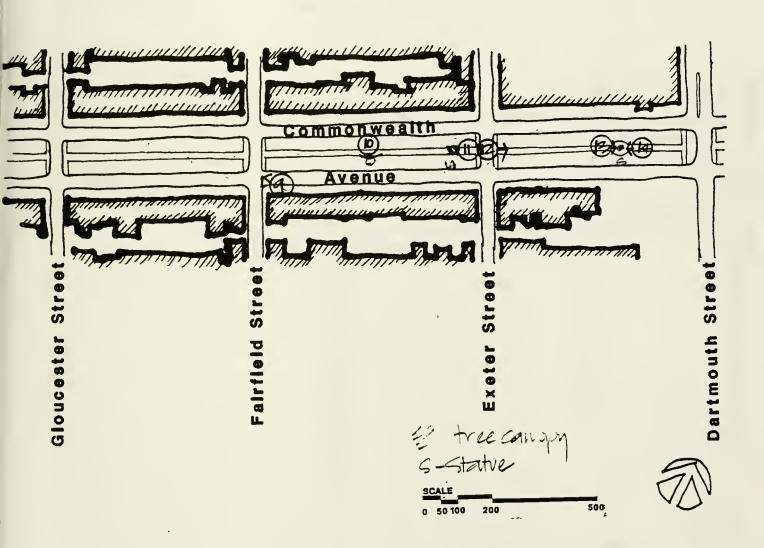
Location: Commave (Asuncon to Kennes) Acreage: 2.04

Evaluation Team: BCH 9 SF Weather Conditions: FAR

Evaluation Date: 5,28,27

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

Site Plan







Neighborhood: BKK BAY BENCON HILL

Site Name: Comm Ave Mul (3 of 3) Site Type: Mall

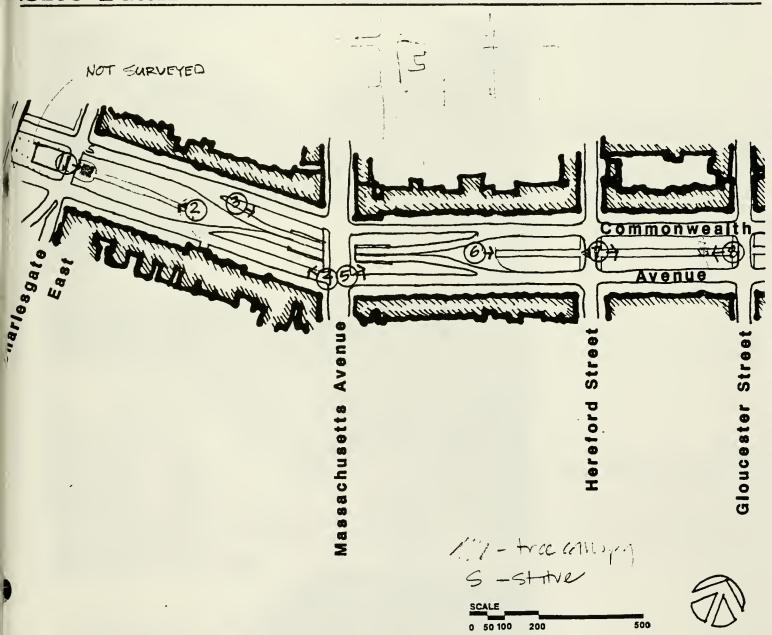
Location: Commare CARUNCION TO KENNEW Acreage: 2.04

Evaluation Team: BCH & SF Weather Conditions:

Evaluation Date: 5.28.277

Surrounding Land Uses: RESIDENTIAL

Site Plan







Statue of Lief Ericson at Charlesgate. East end of park. Stone-dust walkway, seating and beginning of linear walk along mall. Many shade trees including Elms behind.



Site Photograph 2

Circular end to east area. Formal planting of trees doing well in lawn.



Site Photograph 3

View into underpass below Massachusetts Avenue. Grass very patchy in some areas.







View down from Massachusetts Avenue overpass showing shrub plantings and poor grass.



Site Photograph 5

Shrubs old and distorted from over-pruning.
Needs replanting.



Site Photograph 6

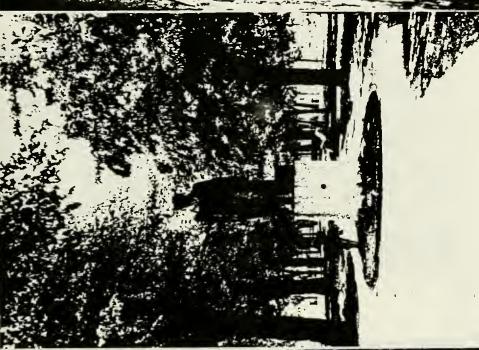
Entry into walkway down mall. Edge defined by steel picket fence.







Generous walkway with benches at sides. Shade trees on either side.



Site Photograph 8

Statue. Planting at base poor. Pavement around statue not wide enough to accommodate maintenance vehicle, therefore grass eroded.



Site Photograph 9

View from Commonwealth Avenue looking at extent of shade tree planting.







Granite drinking fountain in need of repair.



Site Photograph 11

A statue.



Site Photograph 12

View down center of mall showing mature trees and recently planted replacement trees.







A statue.



Site Photograph 14

Front of statue.



Site Photograph 15

View down mall from Dartmouth Street.







Granite memorial Jench.



Site Photograph 17

A statue.



Site Photograph 18

A statue.







View down mall from Berkeley Street. New decorative metal fencing in the process of being installed.



Site Photograph 20

A granite memorial bench.



Site Photograph 21

A statue.







A granite memorial bench.



Site Photograph 23

A granite memorial bench.



Site Photograph 24

View into mall from Arlington Street. Decorative metal fence in the process of installation.



eighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill Site Name: <u>Commonwealth Avenue Mall</u>

Location: Commonwealth Avenue

Acreage: 11 A Site Type: Mall

Site Description:

Commonwealth Avenue Mall is a large mall designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as part of the larger metropolitan open space system. The mall runs down the center of Commonwealth Avenue from the Public Gardens on the east to Kenmore Square on the west. It is surrounded by four and five-story townhouses. The park has a wide central walkway with benches and seven monuments along its length. Four lines of trees have been planted and are the most prominent feature of the mall. At several cross streets ornamental iron or steel picket fences with granite bollards define the entrance into the mall and help to direct pedestrian traffic to the central pathway. From Charlesgate East to the Massachusetts Avenue overpass the mall is primarily edged with steel picket fencing.

No.: BB-10

Condition Assessments:

Most of the site improvements are in good condition. Most of the monuments are in excellent condition. A few benches and all the trash receptacles are in fair to poor condition. Most of the trees are in good condition and are well maintained. Some recently installed trees and the shrubbery are in fair condition. The lawn is worn in many areas with desire lines. Poor grass coverage and irregular surface result in a lawn that is in fair to poor condition.

Major Site Issues:

The Commonwealth Avenue Mall, with its mature trees, beautifully crafted monuments and open expanses of grass, is one of the extraordinary landscape features of Boston and characterizes the Back Bay neighborhood. The greatest improvement in the overall appearance of this space would be achieved by improving the quality of the grass. This effort would involve not only a much more vigorous turf maintenance program, including aeration and top dressing, but also the restricting of access across the corners of the mall where desire lines prominently cross diagonally over the lawn to the main pathway. A method, such as use of fencing, should be visually harmonious with the design of the site. Improvement to the grass should also include filling of depressions to provide a more regular and smooth surface. The pathways encircling the monuments are not generous enough for maintenance



vehicles to pass, and worn patches of grass and puddles have formed beyond the limits of the pathways here.

Improved pruning of shrubbery which encourages its natural growth form as well as additional shrubs at the Massachusetts Avenue underpass would improve this area. The choice of new tree plantings for the mall can better approximate the character of the original Elms. The Ash and Sweet Gum have a stiff and more geometric form, not the graceful pendulous character of the Elms which provided relief from the urban street.



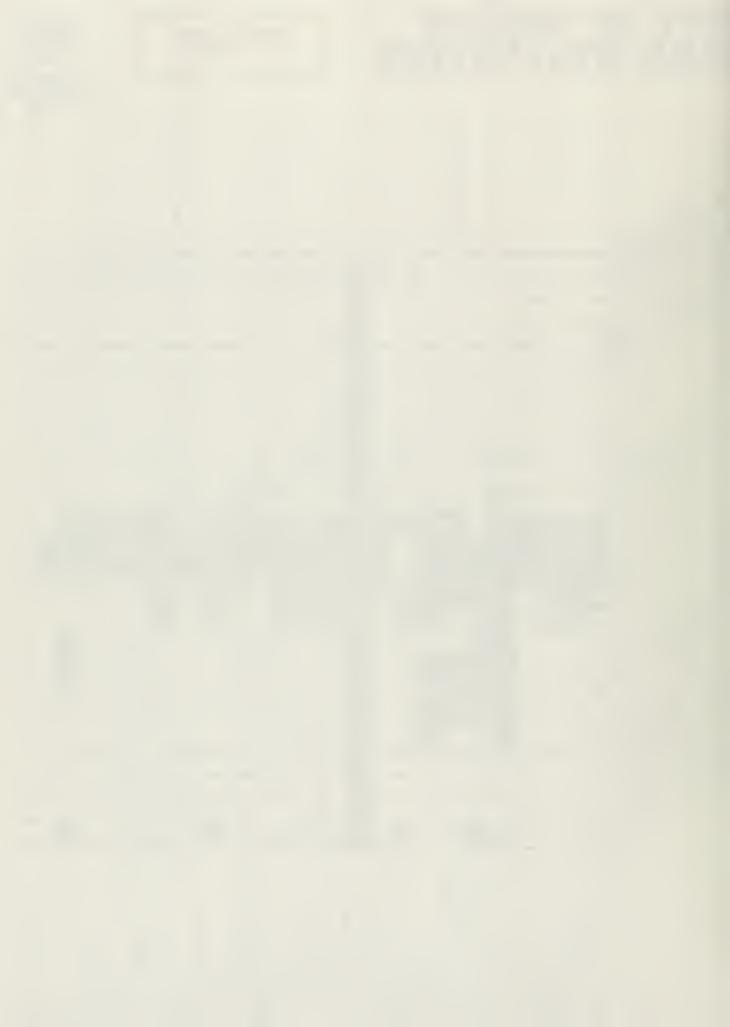
CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

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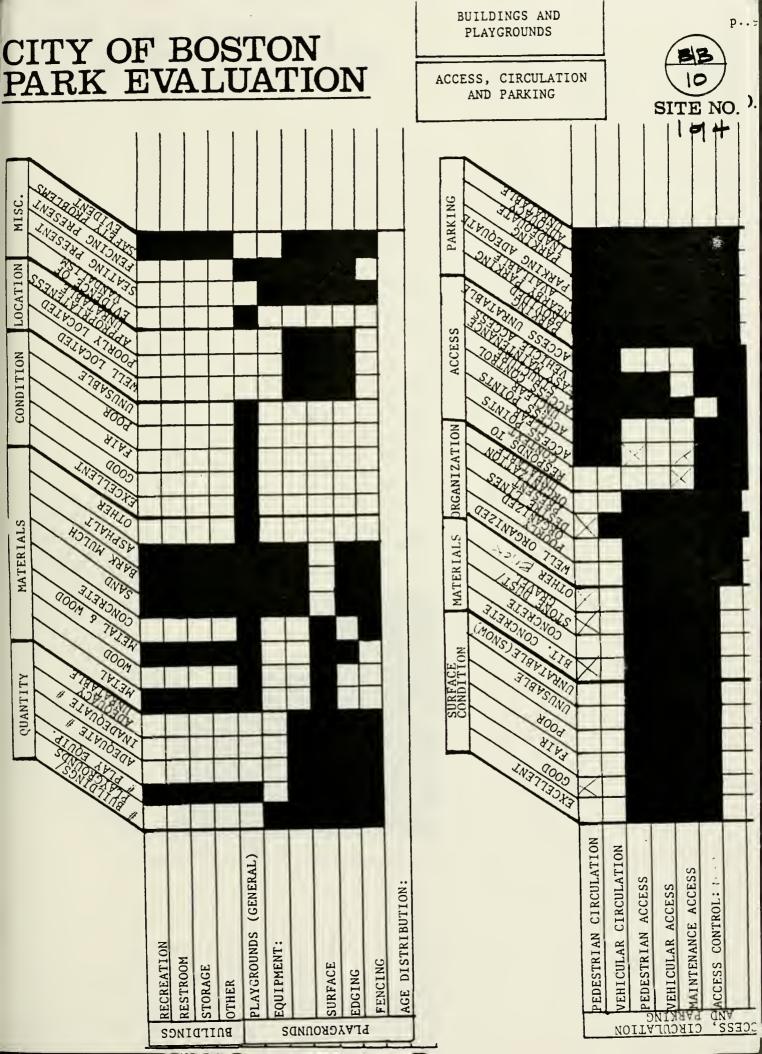


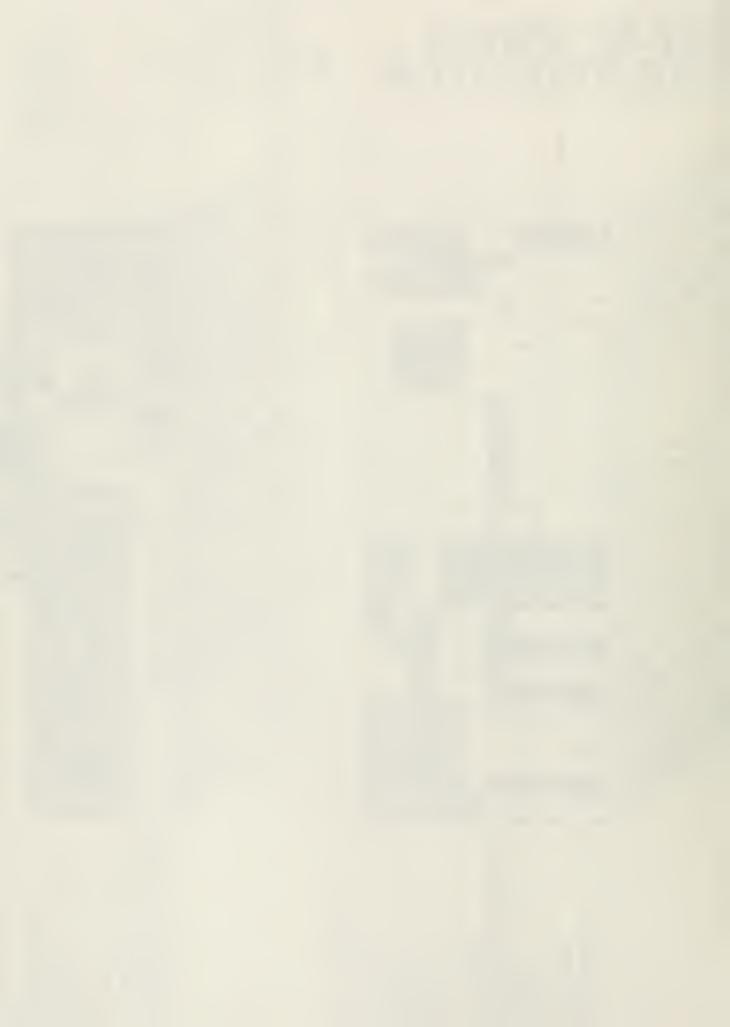
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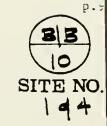


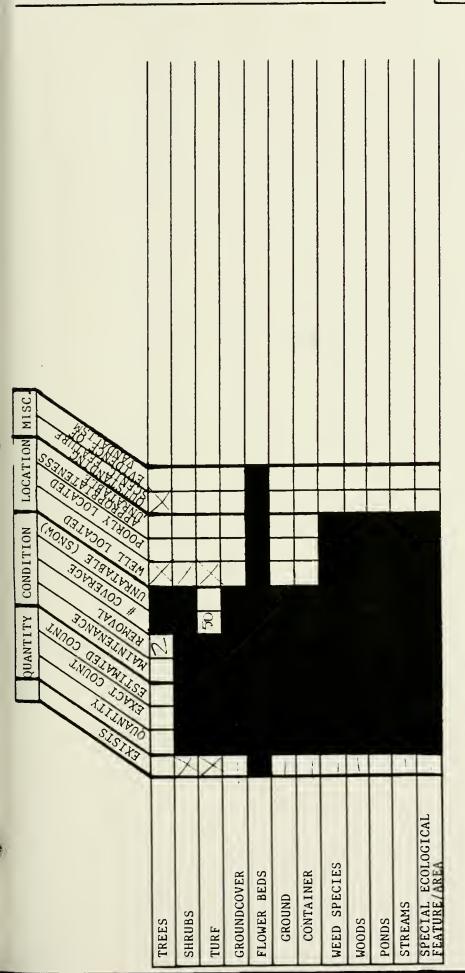




CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS









CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION



Neighborhood: BACK BAY BEACON HILL

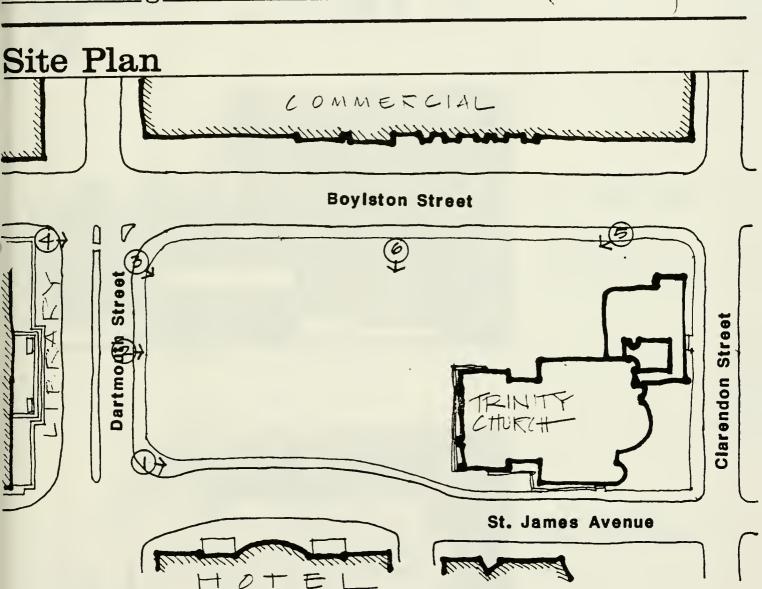
Site Name: Coney Squee Site Type: Solver

Location: DAPTMOUTH | ROLLETT Acreage: 1.884

Evaluation Team: F 3 B# Weather Conditions:

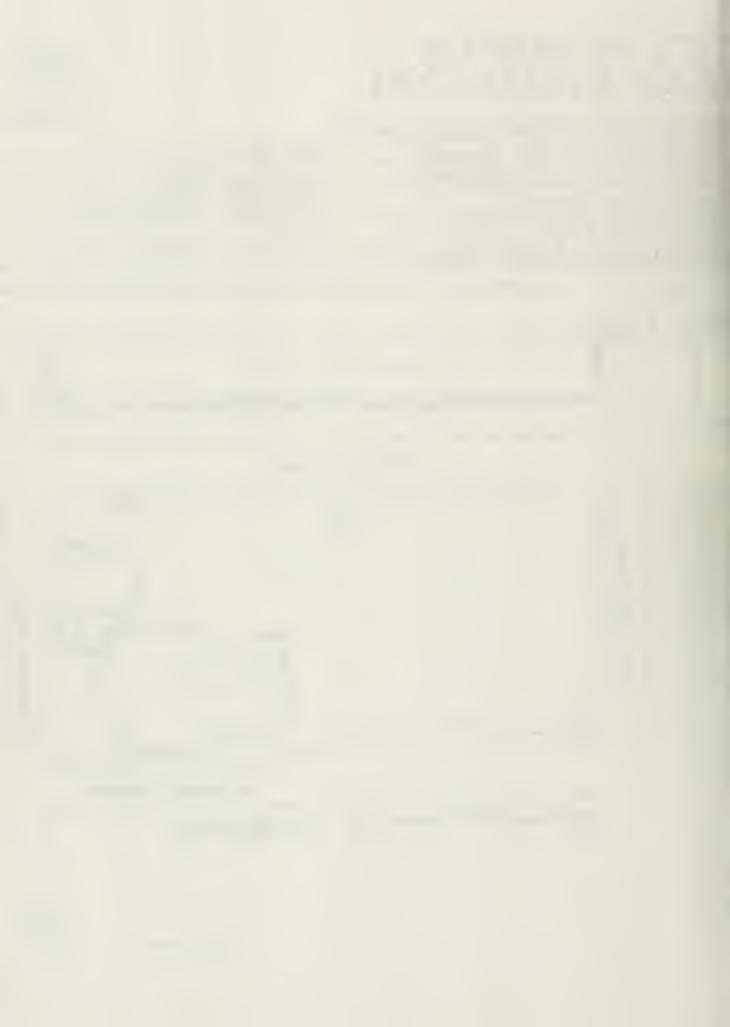
Evaluation Date: 5.72.67 Sunny

Surrounding Land Uses: Commercial, Church, hotel, likeling





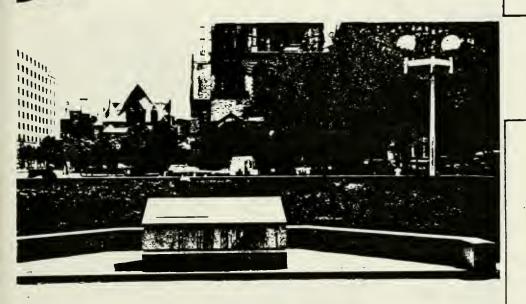






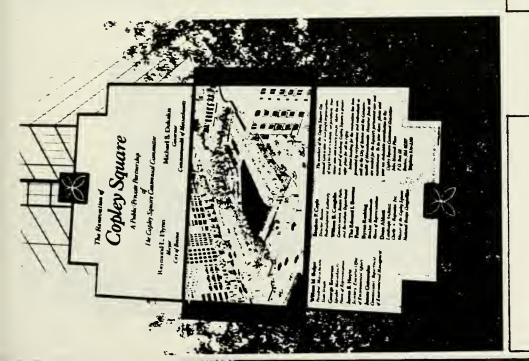


View along St. James Avenue.



Site Photograph 2

Rahlil Gibran monument opposite Poston Public Library. weeds cleaning.



Site Photograph 3

New design for site.









View from Boylston Street. Shows the prominent location of this square next to Trinity Church and the Hancock Building. Street vendors use this space.



Site Photograph 5

Street edge along Boylston Street with Boston Public Library at far end.



Site Photograph 6

View across site towards Copley Plaza Hotel.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Copley Square No.: BB-11

Location: Huntington Avenue, Boylston and Dartmouth Streets

Acreage: 1.88 A Site Type: Square

Site Description:

Copley Square, located in the commercial center of Back Bay, is a large sunken site between Boylston Street on the north, Dartmouth Street on the west and St. James Street on the south. Trinity Church, located at the southeast corner of the square, is the most prominent site feature. The square faces the Copley Plaza Hotel to the south, the Boston Public Library to the west, and numerous commercial buildings along Boylston Street to the north. The John Hancock building, approximately 60 stories in height, overshadows the park to the southeast.

A sunken fountain area is located along the Boylston Street edge of the square. This edge is significantly below the grade of the street and sidewalk and is reached by a series of steps and terraces moving down to the fountain from the west and east. There are two linear plantings of trees, one along Boylston Street and another along St. James Street. The Dartmouth Street edge is defined by a large grassed area with Crabapple trees.

Condition Assessments:

This site is scheduled for complete reconstruction. Most standard park built elements and trees are in good condition. The fountain is not presently working and the pavement is deteriorated in a number of areas.

Major Site Issues:

Copley Square is one of the most significant public spaces in Boston, and surrounded by magnificent historic buildings. In its current condition, its sunken design separates the park from the activities of the street and makes it uninviting to use and difficult to supervise. Its predominantly hard surface gives it a harsh character and makes it very hot in the summer months.



CITY OF BOSTON PARK EVALUATION

SITE SUMMARY



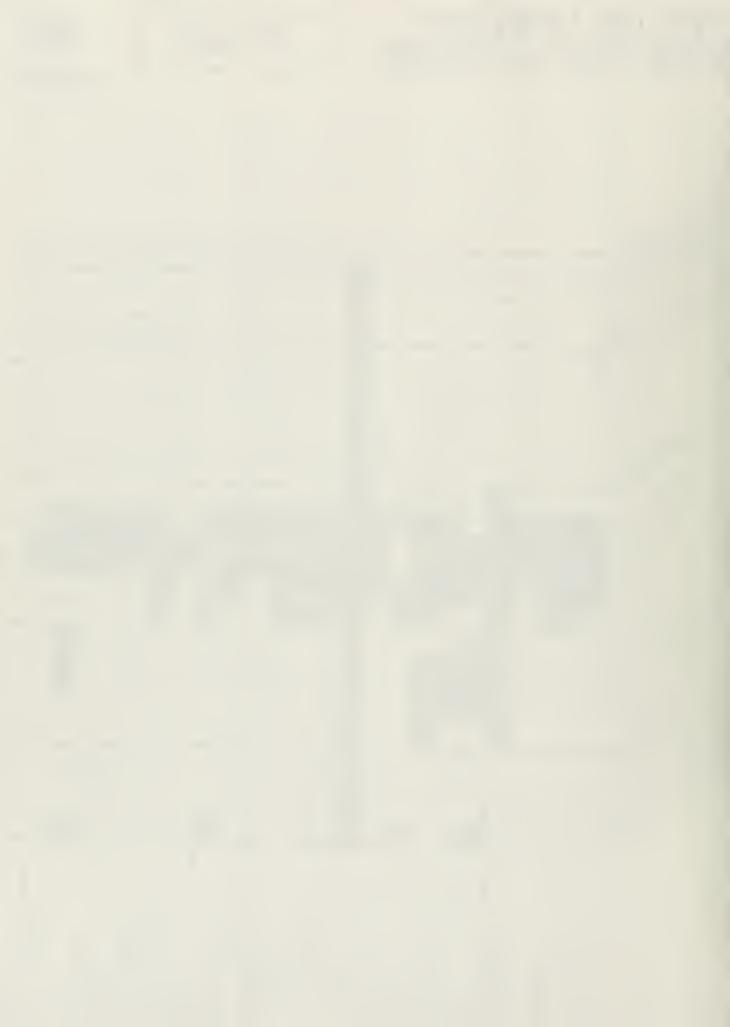
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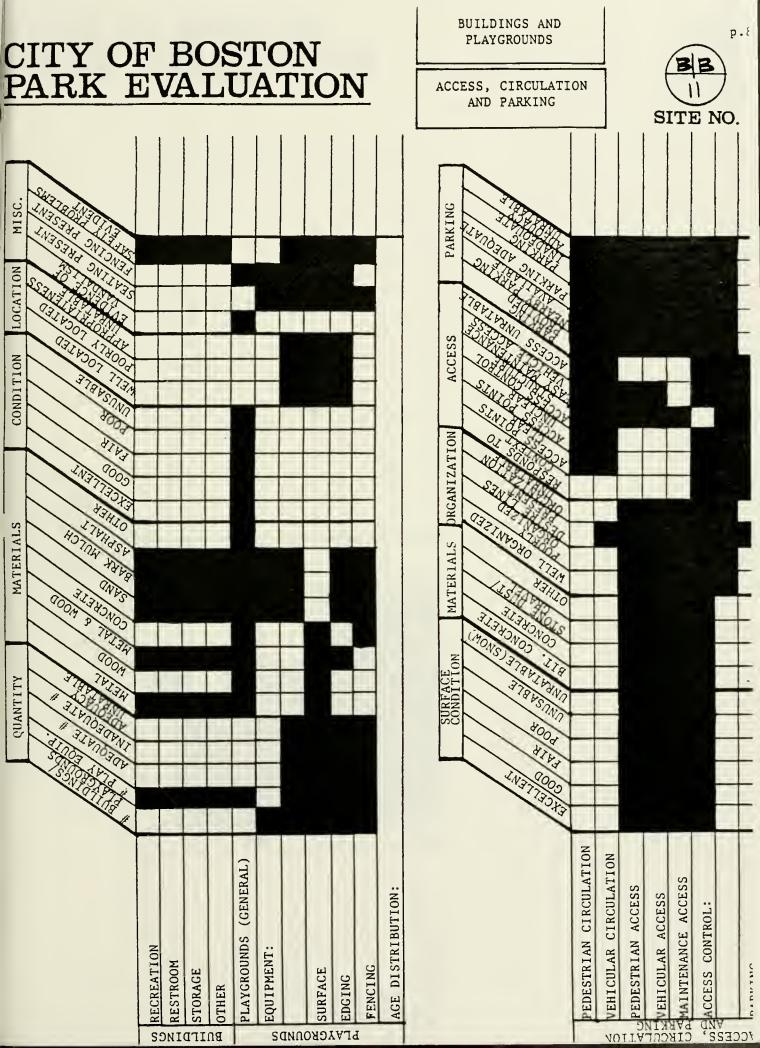
STANDARD PARK BUILT ELEMENTS



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NATURAL PARK ELEMENTS



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MICROCLIMATE



OVERSHADOWED BY BUILDINGS	X	
WELL ORIENTED FOR SUN EXPOSURE	X	
VACANT PARCEL ALONG PARK'S		
HARSH WIND CONDITIONS	X	
SUBJECT TO ROAD SALT SPRAY		
NEARBY POLLUTION PROBLEM		
SUBJECT TO REFLECTIVE HEAT		









Neighborhood: Back Bay Beken Him And Amort Square) SITE NO.

Site Name: Darmouth Street Man Site Type: Mall

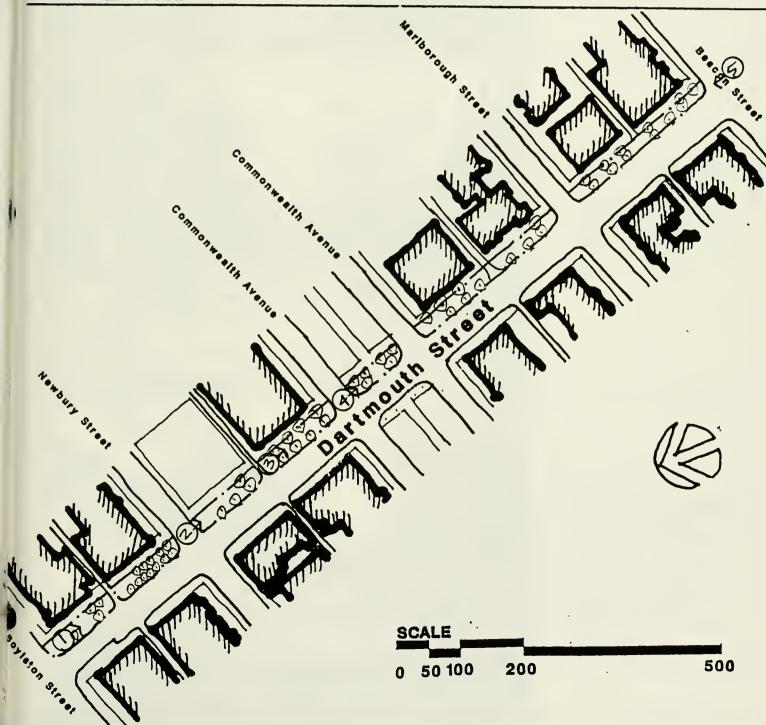
Location: Darmouth Twn. Bokken Beken Acreage: 1.1 A

Evaluation Team: St 3 Bit Weather Conditions:

Evaluation Date: 5.22.87 Survey

Surrounding Land Uses: Residental, Commissional

Site Plan









Site Photograph 1

View of block between Boylston and Newbury Streets. Note wide expanse of pavement in relationship to tree canopy. First tree on left typical condition of those to be removed - stunted and malformed.



Site Photograph 2

Block between Newbury Street and Commonwealth Avenue. Trees beginning to develop a full canopy.



Site Photograph 3

View shows planting of annuals at base of trees. Flowers should be planted on a generous scale. Benches need re-alignment.







Site Photograph 4

Amory Square at intersection with Commonwealth Avenue.



Site Photograph 5

View of corner at Beacon Street.

Site Photograph 6



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Amory Square and Dartmouth Street Mall

Location: Dartmouth Street between Boylston and BB-12 Beacon Streets

Acreage: 1.1 A Site Type: Mall

Site Description:

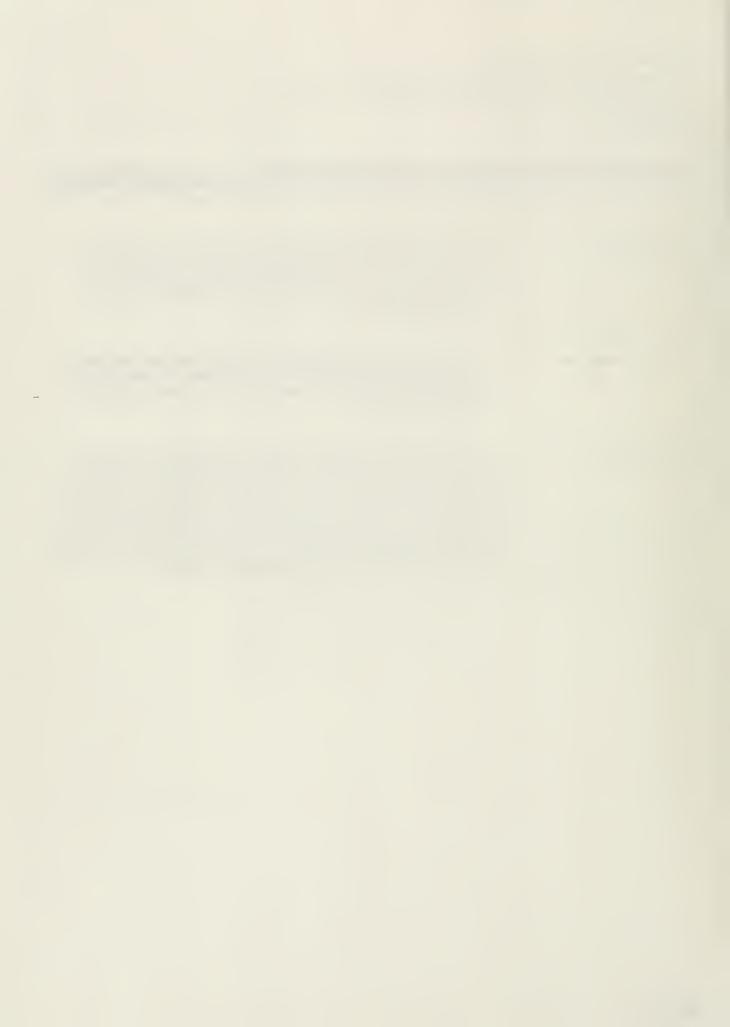
Dartmouth Street Mall and Amory Square are designed as a wide brick-paved mall on the west side of Dartmouth Street stretching from Copley Square to Beacon Street. Two rows of trees and pedestrian lights line the promenade. Three small sitting areas with concrete benches are provided. Some of the original trees are missing.

Condition Assessments:

The brick paving is in good condition, although a few small areas need repair. The benches and lights are almost all in good condition. The trees are mostly in fair condition. Many trees are showing the stress of the paved environment within which they live.

Major Site Issues:

As a whole, the mall is an attractive feature of this City street. However, the design could have gone further in developing sitting areas and providing a rich planting. The approximately forty-foot wide brick-paved sidewalk is more than sufficient to accommodate both pedestrian passage and gathering areas. Additional open ground with grass, groundcovers or shrubs would greatly enrich the area without constricting the gracious dimensions of the mall. The annual flower plantings at the base of the trees are too small scale to be effective. The tree pits, also, are of insufficient size for optimum growing conditions.



Neighborhood: Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Site Name: Amory Square and Dartmouth Street Mall

No.: BB-8

Location: Dartmouth Street between Boylston and

BB-12

Beacon Streets

Acreage: 1.1 A Site Type: Mall

Site Description:

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Major Site Issues:

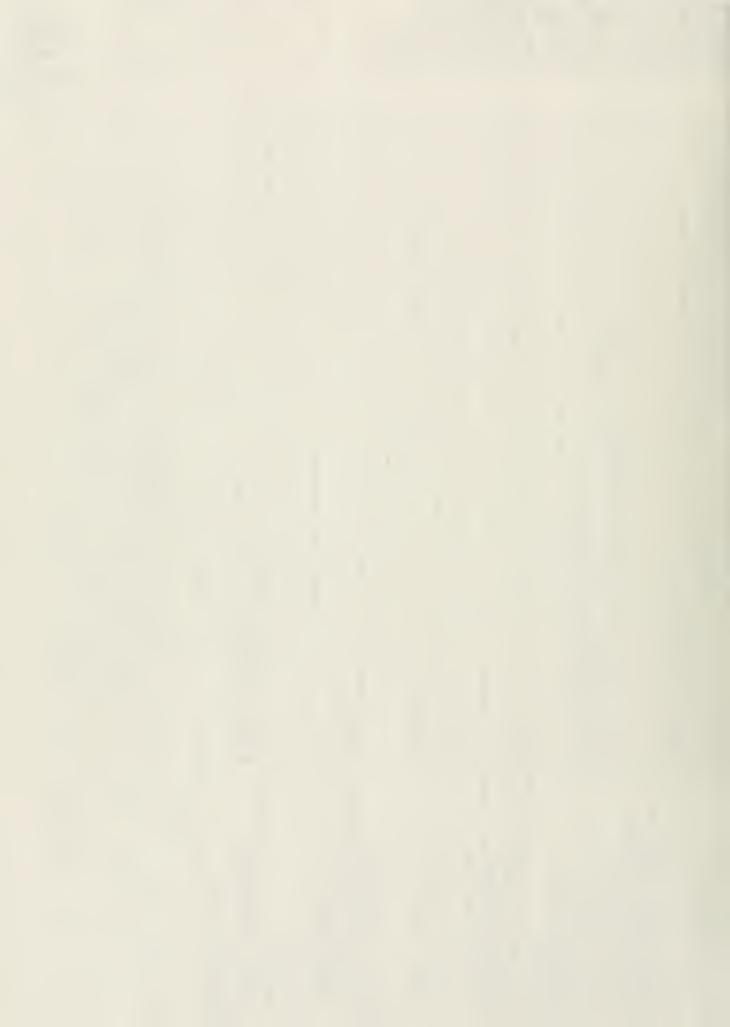
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SITE SUMMARY



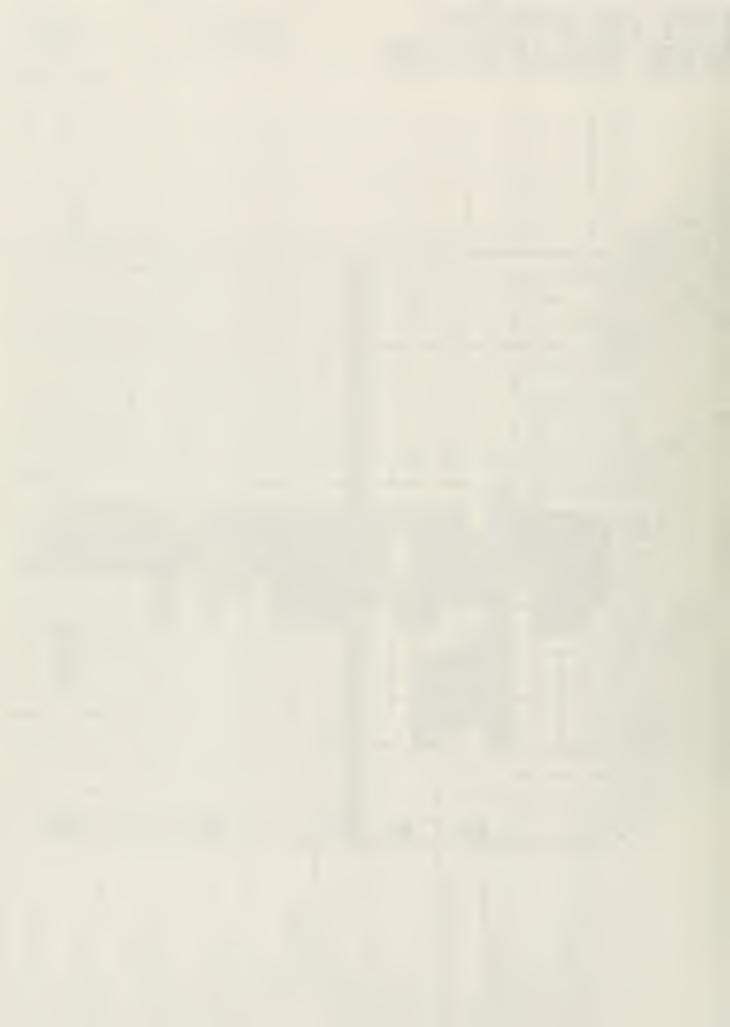
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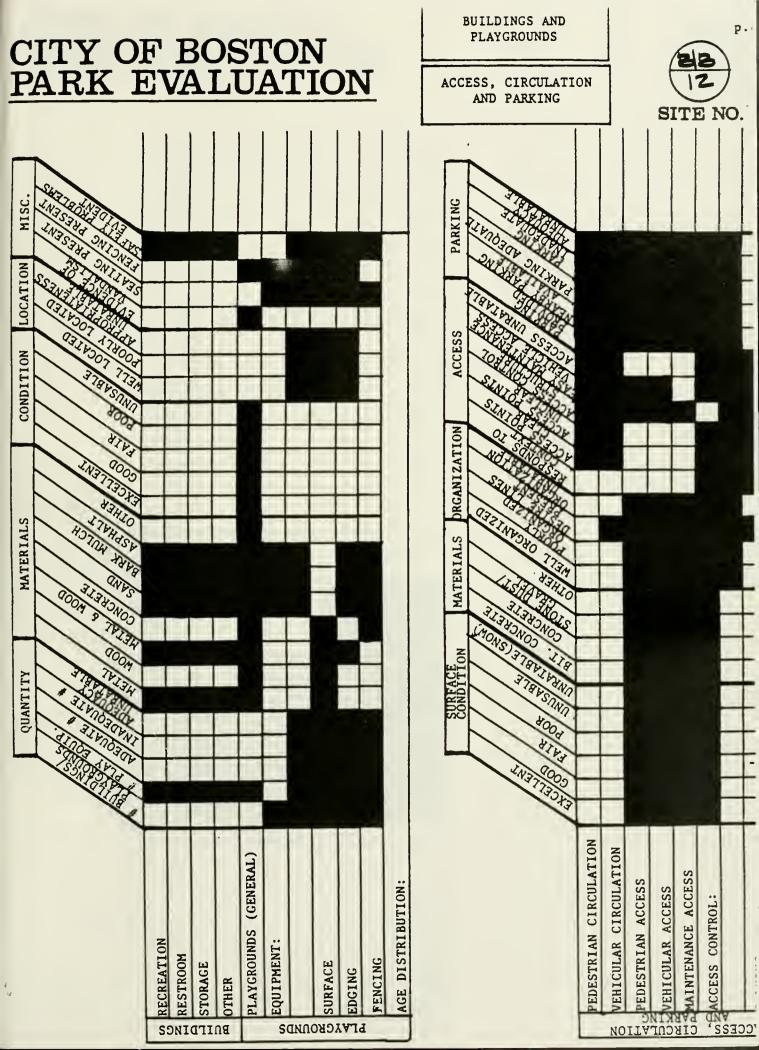


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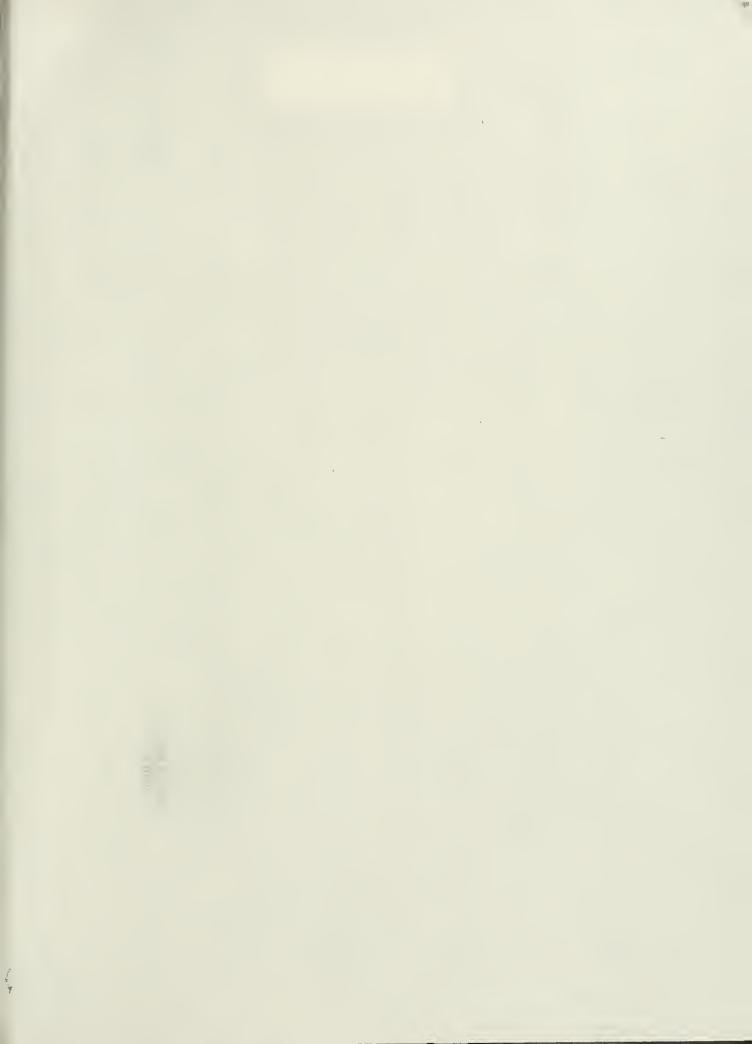
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MICROCLIMATE

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